# Shut up! GMA orders cops probing Al-Ghozi escape

Story below, Col. 2

## GMA hosts dinner for griping officers

**By Joselle R.Badilla**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*
**and Fe Zamora in Manila**

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo hosted a dinner last night in Malacañang for some 100 members of the reportedly grumbling members of Class 1994 and 1995 of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

GMA/ A0

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Thursday, July 24, 2003 ★★★ 54 pages / 3 sections / vol. 18 / no. 226 P15
website: www.inq7.net

## Midair midwife a priest

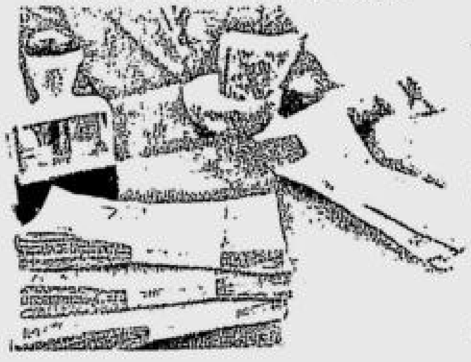
**By Lino Gilbert K. Parone**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

WOW! ISANG TUNAY NA FATHER!

CEBU CITY—There was a "doctor" in the house, and he turned out to be a priest.

Fr. Marcelino "Butch" Malana of

MIDAIR/ A6



# Peso breaches 54:$1 mark on coup jitters

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE PESO yesterday breached the 54:$1 mark, shedding 17.5 centavos to close at 54.025 on jitters caused by rumors of a coup plot against the Macapagal administration.

"Foreign investors are still worried about the Al-Ghozi incident and unfounded rumors of a coup further spooked the market," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura told the INQUIRER.

Buenaventura said the weakness of regional currencies also aggravated the peso's decline. Analysts said the widening trade deficit was also putting pressure on the peso.

"It was a confluence of factors. I think the peso would stay at these levels for the meantime but by yearend, it should settle at 53 to 53.50, well within the government's target of 52-54 to $1," the central bank governor said.

PESO/ A4

# AFP remains on red alert

## *Scout Rangers from South held on arrival in Metro*

**By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*
**TJ Burgonio and Martin Marfil**
*in Manila*

**CAMP Aguinaldo, the headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, continued to be on heightened alert yesterday, following "unusual troop movements" at the Iloilo City port on Tuesday.**

Chief Supt Marcelo Navarro, director of the Police Regional Office (PRO-6), said that Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane had directed him to check on the heavily armed military personnel aboard the WG &A Superferry 2, from Cagayan de Oro City bound for Manila, with a stopover in Iloilo at 3 p.m. before leaving for Manila at 7:30 p.m.

The personnel consisted of 21 Scout Rangers, two members of the Navy's elite Special Warfare Group (SWAG) and an undetermined number of unarmed Marines.

The Scout Rangers led by 2nd Lt. Christopher Genzola were carrying 12 M-16 rifles, two of which had grenade launchers; two M-14 rifles and a .45 cal. automatic, said Senior Supt. Isagani Cuevas, chief of the PRO-6, Directorial Staff, who was among those who inspected the military personnel.

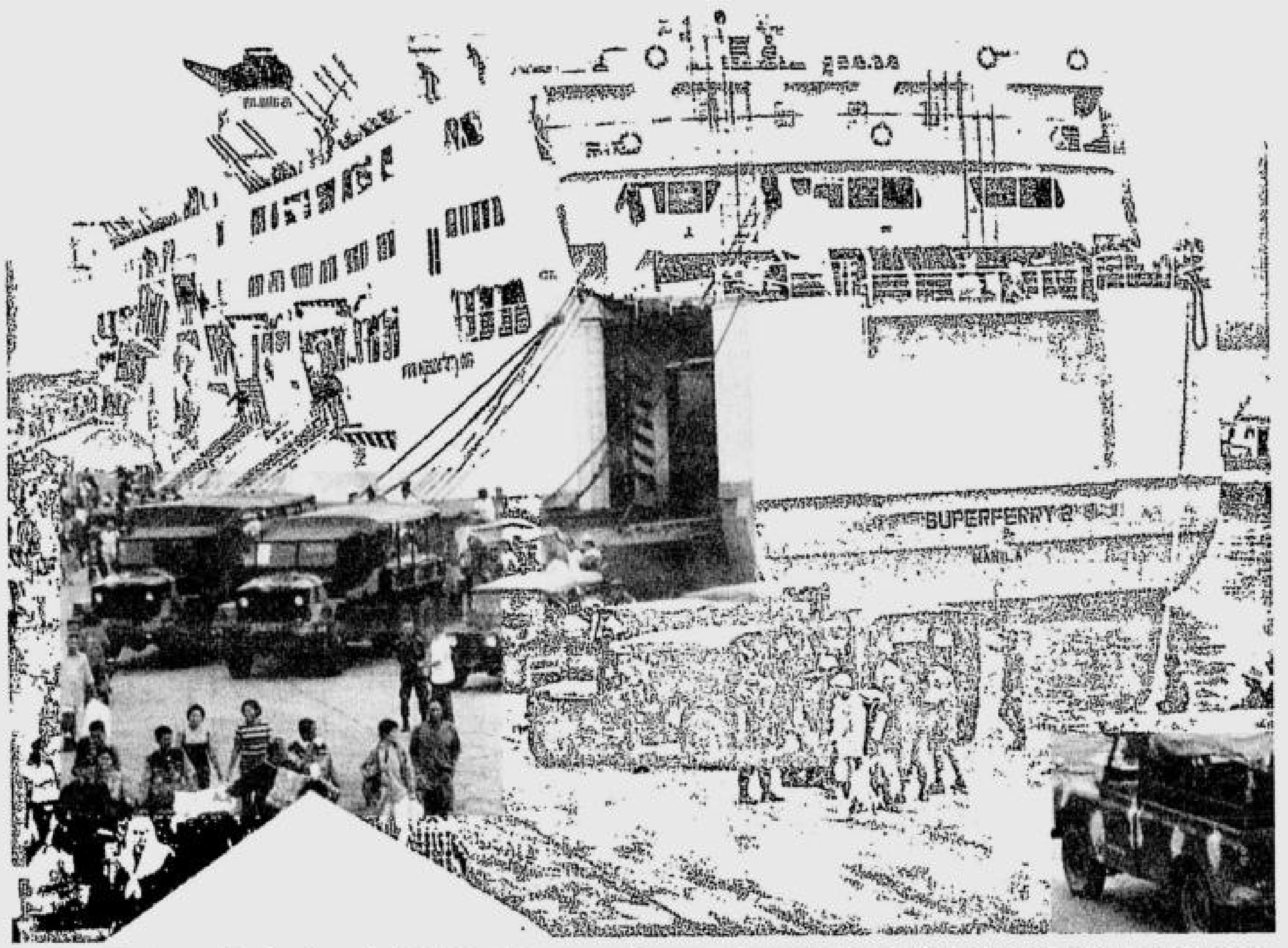
The two Navy men had with them two M-60 machineguns with 1,500 rounds of ammunition, four M-16 rifles and two M-14 rifles.

During the stopover, a combined team of members of the AFP, PNP and Military Intelligence Group in the Western Visayas questioned the Scout Rangers and the SWAG personnel.

Port authorities, policemen and military men threw a tight cordon around the Manila port as the soldiers aboard the Superferry were taken into custody last night.

The men were made to walk out of the

AFP/ A4



**"ARRESTING"** reception for the arrival of 21 Scout Rangers and two members of the Navy's Special Wafare Group on board the Superferry 2 on their arrival on Wednesday night from Cagayan de Oro via Iloilo at Pier 4 in North Harbor, Manila. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

## Shut up! GMA orders cops; in Bali, Blas talks

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday told police investigators pursuing Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi to shut up and focus on the pursuit, but the order came just as Foreign Secretary Blas Ople made a startling announcement in Bali, Indonesia.

Ople said the Philippine National Police expected to recapture Al-Ghozi within three days, after he said the government received information from a rebel group accused of harboring the fugitive.

Ople told reporters the Moro Islamic Liberation Front had given police much-needed information on Al-Ghozi, who escaped from Camp Crame on July 14.

In Malacañang, Ms Macapagal rebuked the PNP after its officials discussed in public various angles in Al-Ghozi's escape, including the alleged participation of a foreign hand or a destabilization attempt by the opposition.

"All PNP units must concentrate on the job at hand and refrain from engaging the rumor mill," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

She said information about the investigation should come from the Presidential Fact-Finding Commission, and not the PNP.

Speaking on the sidelines of a meeting of Asian and European foreign ministers,

SHUT/ A4

## Quarreling over ₱38-B Marcos loot disturbing

**By Christine O. Avendaño and Juliet Labog-Javellana**

TWO Bayan Muna legislators are accusing an Akbayan representative of watering down a bill seeking to compensate human rights victims of the Marcos regime.

Bayan Representatives Crispin Beltran and Satur Ocampo said Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, chair of the civil, political and human rights committee, would "virtually remove all allusions to the Marcos dictatorship."

A former anti-Marcos-activist-turned senator deplored as "embarrassing and lamentably disturbing" the bickering over House Bill No. 4535 that seeks to indemnify the rights victims using part of the P38-billion Marcos loot the Supreme Court forfeited in favor of the government.

"It is as if it is a quarrel over money when it is not," Sen. Joker Arroyo said in a statement.

He said the "squabbling dehumanizes the victims we seek to honor and compensate and trivializes the sufferings they have endured."

HB 4535, sponsored by Rosales, is up for floor deliberations but she wants to amend it by including victims of post-Marcos administrations. The bill seeks to provide victims of martial law with P10 billion in compensation.

The differences were not confined to Bayan Muna and Akbayan. Rosales scored President Macapagal-Arroyo's proposal to set aside P8 billion of the Marcos loot for the rights victims and P30 billion for agrarian reform.

QUARRELING/ A6

## P1B worth of crops destroyed

VAL HANDUMON

**PRECIOUS** possessions of Rommel Jose are intact but not the roof of his house in Isabela which his father start to repair after typhoon Harurot.

**By the PDI News Bureaus**

TYPHOON "Harurot" has destroyed P1.098 billion worth of crops in Northern Luzon, triggering a possible corn shortage that will be felt in October, Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. said yesterday.

Lorenzo said the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela, the main corn-producing areas in Luzon, were hardest hit by Harurot on Wednesday. "An estimated 166,670 hectares planted with corn were possibly wiped out in these provinces," he said.

But the situation is not as bleak for rice production, he said, with only an estimated 50,000 to 60,000 hectares of rice farms affected.

Harurot (international name: Imbudo) blew out of the Philippines and toward Hong Kong early yesterday, leaving 20 people dead and more than 11,000 others displaced.

Four more people have died in the floods in Maguindanao and North Cotabato since Sunday, raising the death toll there to 12.

Elsie Amil, Maguindanao provincial social welfare officer, said two elderly men drowned at the height of the flood Monday night, after the Simuay river overflowed. A child was also reported to have drowned when the waters rose to neck-level, she said.

Their identities remained unavailable as of press time.

P1B WORTH/ A6

REUTERS PHOTO FILE

**THE GOOD** life for Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday (right) and Qusay comes to an end in a blaze of gunfire and rockets in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. They were done in by their own cousin.

## Iraqis celebrate death of Saddam's two sons

MOSUL, Iraq—The killings were a shot in the arm for US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Both leaders are under fire over their failure to find Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction that they had used to justify war on Iraq despite international opposition.

Acting on a tip from a Saddam cousin, US forces stormed a palatial villa in this northern Iraq city on Tuesday, killing Saddam's sons Uday and Qusay in a blaze of gunfire and rockets.

News of the deaths of Uday and Qusay, symbols of cruelty of the deposed regime, touched off celebratory gunfire in Baghdad

IRAQIS/ A4

## Mother of 4 Marcos victims dies at 89

**By Volt Contreras**

CELSA Rapi Hilao, mother to four victims of human rights abuses during the Marcos regime, heard the good news just when her life was already ebbing away.

The Bicolana, who with husband Maximo led families of martial law victims in suing ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, died at age 89 in Las Piñas on Monday.

Her death came six days after a landmark Supreme Court ruling awarded P38 billion in Marcos loot to the government.

Downed by heart complications due mainly to old age, "Mai Sisang" was in near-comatose state for three days when the high tribunal issued the decision on July 15.

"But she still shed tears of joy when I whispered it to her. She heard me, I can tell," daughter Marie Hilao-Enriquez told the INQUIRER on the phone yesterday from the wake at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel in Sucat, Parañaque.

"I know she was happy about the decision, although I also explained to her

MOTHER/ A6

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Western Luzon will experience occasional monsoon rains. The rest Luzon will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/24/03

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Occasional Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Occasional Rains | Roxas | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Occasional Rains | Tacloban | Partly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Occasional Rains | Gen. Santos | Partly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Occasional Rains | Zamboanga | Partly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Occasional Rains | Davao | Partly Cloudy |

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# Second FRONTPAGE

# Gov't, MILF to start peace talks in Malaysia next week

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PEACE talks with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front will begin in Kuala Lumpur on Monday or Tuesday, according to Eduardo Ermita, the presidential adviser on the peace process and the chief government negotiator.

Ermita said Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad had asked the government panel to prepare to leave for the Malaysian capital in a telephone conversation with President Macapagal-Arroyo over the weekend.

No deadline was set for the completion of the talks but "90 days would be OK," Ermita said.

At a three-hour meeting with Mindanao leaders in Malacañang yesterday, the President assured the officials that peace talks with the Moro rebels did not mean any weakening in the government's firm stance against terrorism.

"The peace process is precisely to marginalize terrorists so that we can have better chances of finishing them off," Ms Macapagal said.

As for claims that the MILF itself is a terrorist organization, the President said "that is a matter to be seen."

"If there is a grand deception involving the MILF, then I am sure it will be unmasked before the world in the peace negotiations," she said.

She stressed that the military would guard communities in the south against any MILF attack.

Ermita said the six-member government panel expects to receive the formal notice from Malaysia, the host and third-party mediator in the talks, anytime now.

He said the MILF panel, to be led by MILF chair Salamat Hashim, was also waiting for the Malaysian "invitation."

The government panel is composed of Ermita, Irene Santiago, Emily Marohombsar, Zamzamin Ampatuan, Cotabato City mayor Muslimin Sema and Sultan Kudarat governor Pax Mangudadatu.

## Final agreement

In the rebel panel are Salamat, Hadji Murad, Laran Alim, Sonny Alonto, Mushib Buat and Michael Mastura, a former congressman.

Ermita said he was informed early yesterday morning that Salamat would be at the opening of the talks and during the signing of a final peace agreement. He said Salamat would be available to the rebel panel members for consultation throughout the talks.

More than 50 people, including senators, congressmen, governors, mayors, civil society and non-government organization representatives from Mindanao, attended the meeting which was called to brief Mindanao stakeholders on the developments and direction of the talks.

Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the meeting "started with some misgivings but ended on a bright note."

Ermita explained that the proposed Bangsa Moro Development Authority, an accommodation to the MILF, would be considered as an expansion of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao that was created when the Moro National Liberation Front signed a peace agreement with the government in 1992.

Ermita said the BMDA would be "done through an act of Congress," if this would be agreed in the talks. He said a plebiscite would also be held to approve it.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the President had supported in principle the creation of a Bangsa Moro autonomous state under a "federalized" Mindanao.

"I support the idea of federalization, but that has to await action by Congress to amend the Constitution," the President was quoted by Pimentel as saying.

But Sen. Rodolfo Biazon is concerned that the government has already entered into a secret deal with the Moro rebels regarding the creation of a separate Bangsamoro state.

He warned the Palace against giving the rebels assurances of expanding the territories they now control. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Metro Manila, and Rolly A. San Juan and Joselle R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Consa is dead —Guingona

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

VICE PRESIDENT Teofisto Guingona Jr. yesterday expressed confidence that the Senate will stand fast on a committee vote rejecting a House proposal for Congress to form itself into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

Guingona said his "former colleagues in the Senate are well in touch with the people's sentiment," which he said was against a constituent assembly.

"It is becoming abundantly clear that [Consa] is dead," Guingona said in a statement.

Any move to amend the Constitution should come only after the 2004 elections and "only if the broad majority of the Filipino people are made fully aware of the issues and consequences of any Charter change," he said.

Speaker Jose de Venecia, who is leading the Charter change campaign in the House, remains optimistic that the constituent assembly proposal would still get a majority vote, when it reaches the Senate plenary.

But Senate President Franklin Drilon has said that the vote in the committee on Constitutional amendments meant that the constituent assembly mode was "dead."

He said there will be no Charter change unless the House gives in and agrees to a Constitutional convention.

Instead of a constituent assembly, the Senate proposed a Constitutional convention whose delegates would be elected simultaneously with national officials in the May 2004 elections.

# US spy planes help hunt down Abu Sayyaf

THE US military has flown surveillance planes over the southwest Philippines to help Filipino troops pursue an armed gang believed to be led by the head of the brutal Abu Sayyaf Muslim extremist group, a military official said yesterday.

The operation shows Washington's continuing role in Manila's battle against the al-Qaida-linked group after US forces came to provide non-combat help in the Philippines' troubled South last year.

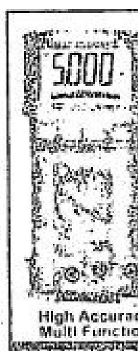
US Orion P3 surveillance planes have flown over the Zamboanga peninsula and nearby areas in recent weeks to help find about 40 armed men believed to be under the command of Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani, the senior Filipino military official said on condition of anonymity.

The Philippine military had asked for the flights, the official said, adding that the planes were from a US base in Okinawa.

A US military spokesperson in the southern Philippines would neither confirm nor deny the flights, saying only that US forces are providing intelligence and training to Filipino troops in the area.

"For operations and security reasons, we will not discuss the specifics of this training and the equipment that's used during the conduct of this training," said the spokesperson, Maj. Randy Cephus.

Military officials believe Janjalani traveled to the jungle-covered outskirts of Sibuco town on the peninsula last month to flee military assaults on his previous base on nearby Jolo island. AP



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# SC dismisses graft case vs ex-Army chief

By Philip C. Tubeza

AFTER nearly 16 years of litigation, the government's graft case against a Marcos-era Army chief and his alleged mistress is back to square one.

This after the Supreme Court, voting 13-0, ruled that the Presidential Commission on Good Government in the first place had no jurisdiction to investigate and file a forfeiture case against Maj. Gen. Josephus Ramas and his alleged mistress Elizabeth Dimaano.

The government alleged that the two accumulated more than P4.5 million worth of unexplained wealth.

Besides pointing out the PCGG's lack of jurisdiction, the high court also rapped the commission's delay in presenting evidence which was one of the reasons why the case was dismissed.

But all was not lost for the PCGG. The high court referred the case to the Ombudsman and ordered the Bureau of Internal Revenue to determine any tax liability on Dimaano's part.

In a 42-page decision penned by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, the high court threw out the government's petition for certiorari challenging the Sandiganbayan's decision to drop the case.

Court records showed that policemen raided the house of Dimaano, an army confidential agent assigned as Ramas' clerk-typist, in Barangay Tengga, Itaas, Batangas City on March 3, 1986, or six days after the Edsa I revolt overthrew the Marcos dictatorship.

The lawmen found military and communications equipment, P2,870,000 and $50,000 in cash, jewelry and various land titles.

The PCGG, through the Armed Forces of the Philippines Anti-Graft Board, investigated the matter and later filed a forfeiture case against Ramas before the Sandiganbayan on Aug. 1, 1987.

The PCGG noted that Ramas also had a P700,000 house in La Vista, Quezon City. It later also impleaded Dimaano as a defendant in the case.

But after repeated motions for deferment by the government—due to the absence of witnesses or lack of further evidence to present—the Sandiganbayan on Nov. 18, 1991 dismissed the case and ordered that the confiscated items be returned to Dimaano.

The PCGG appealed but the Sandiganbayan denied its motion for reconsideration. The PCGG then went to the Supreme Court.

But the high court pointed out that the PCGG lacked the authority to prosecute Ramas and Dimaano because under the executive order that created it, the PCGG has jurisdiction only in cases involving the recovery of ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, his immediate family, relatives, subordinates and close associates; or if the President assigns the case to it.

The court noted that the PCGG does not claim that the President assigned to them the Ramas case. It also said that Ramas' position as army commanding general does not necessarily make him a "subordinate" of Marcos unless there is evidence that he enjoyed a close association with the late dictator.

The court pointed out that the PCGG, in its amended complaint, only enumerated Ramas' properties and suggested that they were disproportionate to his salary and other legitimate income as a general.

It said that the PCGG did not show that Ramas amassed these properties because of his close association with Marcos.

"Such omission is fatal. Petitioner forgets that it is precisely a prima facie showing that the ill-gotten wealth was accumulated by a 'subordinate' of former President Marcos that vests jurisdiction on PCGG," the court said.

But the court held that the Ombudsman may still conduct the proper preliminary investigation for violating the forfeiture law. Under that law, the right of the state to forfeit unexplained wealth is not subject to prescription, laches and estoppel, the court said.

# Live simply, Cabinet members told

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged her Cabinet to live a simple lifestyle and refrain from flaunting their power, as part of government efforts to bring back integrity to public service, which has been widely perceived as corrupt.

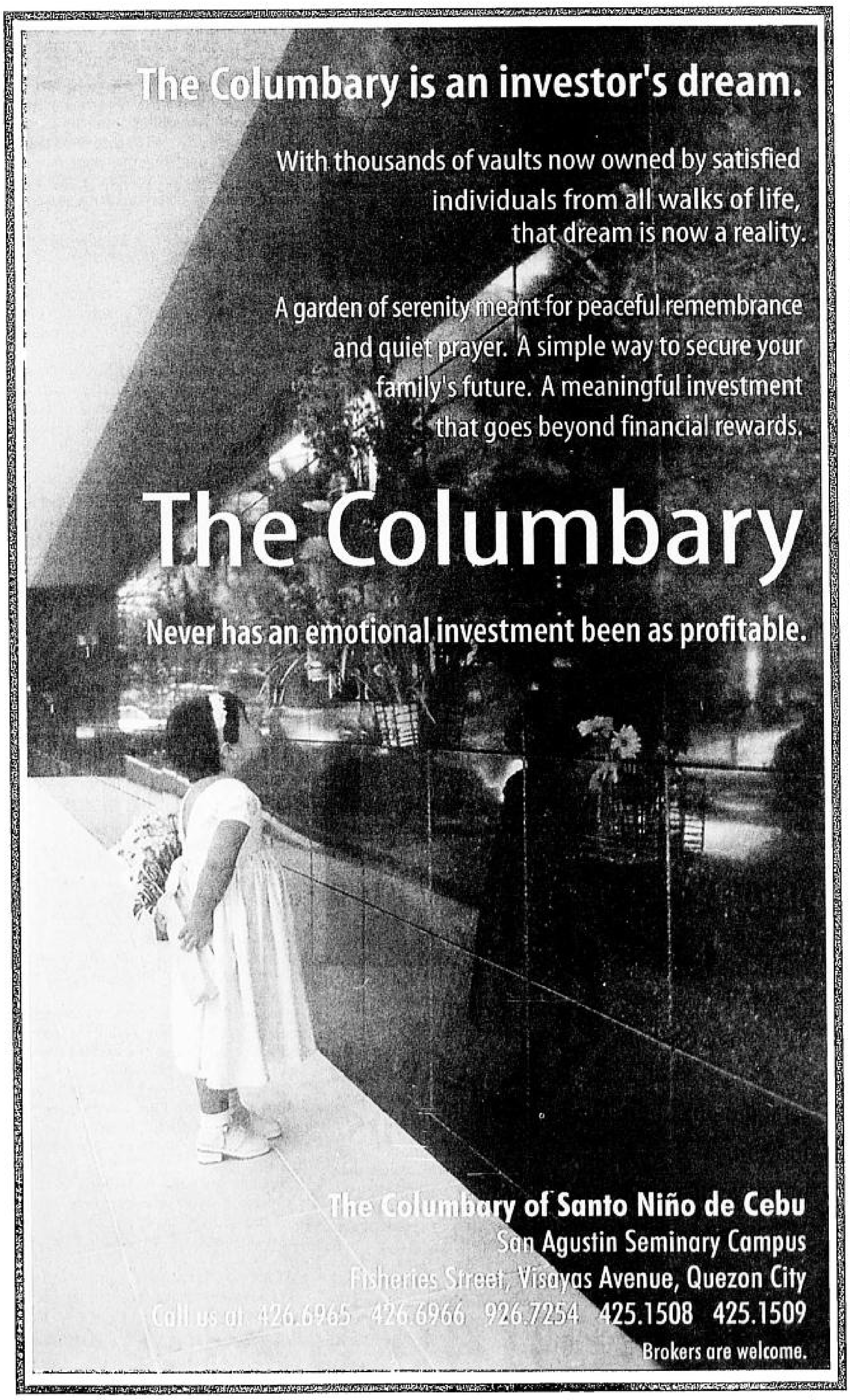
In a statement, Ms Macapagal said: "While I do not want to cramp the personal taste and lifestyle of those who closely work with the presidency, there is no place for ostentation or living it up, not only in this time of formidable constraints facing our people, but at all times."

"I encourage a professional ethic that stands on simplicity and forthright public service, untainted by pomp and show and an inordinate display of influence or power," the President said.

The President yesterday reiterated that the entire office of the President and the Cabinet were open to lifestyle checks because all of them were bound to serve with a sense of dignity and public responsibility.

The Department of Finance has already filed charges of unexplained wealth against four executives of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs, who failed the agency's lifestyle check.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the Department of Public Works and Highways would be the likely target of the next lifestyle check aimed at determining whether the officials' government salaries could sustain their assets and activities.



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## QUELLING HOUSE REVOLT

# Joe de V to serve 'pork' to solons soon

**By Carlito Pablo**

CITING improved revenue collections, Speaker Jose de Venecia has advised restive congressmen that the Department of Budget and Management has begun releasing a total of P8 billion in pork barrel funds due members of the House for fiscal year 2002.

De Venecia, in a joint memorandum with House appropriations committee chair Rep. Rolando Andaya (Lakas, Camarines Sur), also told congressmen that notices for 50 percent or about P7 billion in their 2003 pork barrel allocations are being placed in the pipeline by the DBM.

De Venecia's memorandum, dated July 21, surfaced yesterday amid talks that congressmen, who are grumbling about delays in the release of their pork barrel, are contemplating his ouster as Speaker.

Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II (Lakas, Mandaluyong), one of three House leaders touted to be potential replacements for De Venecia, welcomed this development, saying "this has removed a source of speculations regarding talks of leadership changes."

"We really have to give it to Speaker De Venecia for working hard in relaying to the DBM the concerns of congressmen," Gonzales said in a phone interview.

Gonzales noted that "as promised" by Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, congressmen will be receiving their pork barrel before July 28, the date when Congress resumes session for the State of the Nation Address of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Congressmen are entitled to a total of P65 million in pork barrel each, broken down as: P15 in Priority Development Assistance Fund and P50 in appropriations at the Department of Public Works and Highways.

## Speaker is safe

**By Juliet Labog-Javellana**

MALACAÑANG is confident that Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. will keep his post at the House of Representatives.

"What we know is that the leadership remains stable," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye said that based on radio interviews, even the congressmen who were supposed to be part of those plotting a coup at the House have denied that there would be a leadership change. "As far as the leadership is concerned she (President Macapagal) respects the independence of the House," Bunye said.

Asked if the 63-member Nationalist People's Coalition could topple De Venecia, Bunye noted that those planning to have a leadership change need to muster "50 (percent) plus one." The House has 217 members.

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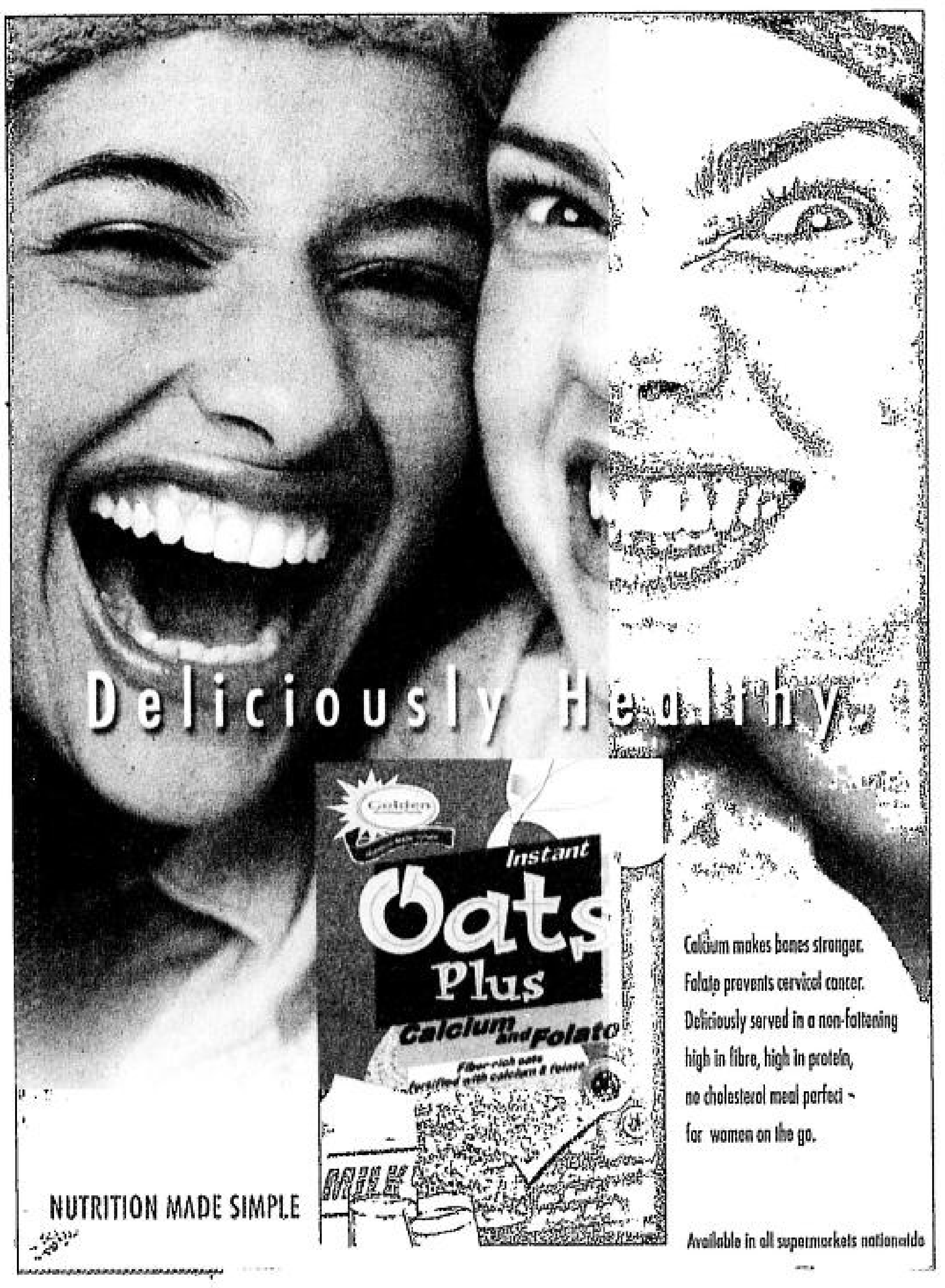
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# AFP remains on red alert

From page A1

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## Downplay

Despite the "arresting" reception of the soldiers aboard the ferry, Col. Jeffrey Sodusta, commander of the Army's Task Force Panay (TFP) downplayed the incident at the Iloilo port. But he admitted that the inspection and questioning of the military personnel were done "covertly because we did not know the nature the soldiers' movement.

The TFP is charged with the internal security operations on the 'and.

"It was a routine check and there is no cause for alarm," said Sodusta. Navarro said the PNP had orders to be on alert for "unusual troop movements."

"Our concern was only those carrying firearms," Navarro further told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The 23 military personnel were later allowed to continue their trip, after they presented their mission orders, authorizing their travel and the carrying of firearms.

The orders of the Scout Rangers were confirmed by Brig. Gen. Gabriel Ledesma, commander of the 1st Scout Ranger Regiment, who called up the police officials here.

Ledesma said there were only 25 Scout Rangers belonging to the 1st and 10th Scout Ranger Companies on board the vessel.

Eleven of them would be undergoing reviewer training on basic ranger course and Special Forces training in the regimental headquarters in San Miguel, Bulacan, and in Fort Magsaysay, in Laur, Nueva Ecija, he said.

He said their firearms were necessary because the course involved the handling of weapons and marksmanship training.

The other Scout Rangers were scheduled for rest and recreation and transfer of assignment.

"There was nothing unusual with their movement," Ledesma said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

He said many of the Scout Rangers who were assigned in Zamboanga City were going home after a long operation.

## Escort for soldiers

Although the Scout Rangers and the Navy personnel were later cleared, Cuevas said four policemen from PRO-6 boarded the Superferry 2 to escort the soldiers to their final destination and to monitor any unusual movement.

The questioning was hardly noticed by passengers and port personnel.

Isidro Gonzaga, a security guard at the port, said there was nothing unusual when the vessel arrived in Iloilo.

He said he noticed several men in short pants sporting military haircuts disembarked and bought food near the passenger terminal.

Navarro said the PRO-6 was still on heightened alert because of the escape of Indonesian bomb expert Fathur al-Ghozi and two alleged members of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

"Part of our measures is to check on the movement of heavily armed men," he said.

But Ledesma said he could not explain why his troops caused a stir among government troops.

He said he would personally fetch the Scout Rangers upon their arrival in Manila last night "to appease the public" that there was something unusual with the movements of the troops.

In Camp Aguinaldo, Commodore Tirso Danga, camp commander, declared a red alert status inside the camp at around 5 p.m. Tuesday and shortly after, summoned truckloads of soldiers and conducted a camp defense drill at the AFP grandstand.

He cautioned his men against joining any move to seize power, recalling that he too joined a coup attempt in the late `80s, and ended up behind bars after it failed without getting any form of help from the coup leaders.

"Do not listen to such talks," he was overheard as telling his men. "Let's join together until we straighten out what needs to be straightened out, and put things in order. I'm your leader; I'm responsible for your life and your family."

## Thorough inspections

Yesterday, soldiers manning the camp gates conducted thorough inspections of private vehicles including stopping cars with official camp stickers and requesting drivers to get off and open the baggage compartment themselves.

When asked if the tight inspection was an offshoot of the coup rumors, a soldier nodded.

Fresh grumbling by captains from the Army and Marines about low pay, poor housing program, and the micromanagement style of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, which was recently reported in the INQUIRER, had set off coup jitters.

Defense and military officials had sought to downplay the discontent, saying that only a small group of junior officers was griping about graft in the organization, and that their complaints were being addressed.

## Threats of protest rallies

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, Armed Forces public information officer, confirmed that the red alert status inside the camp was an offshoot of the persistent coup rumors, but later changed his statement.

When asked by reporters if there was any reason to declare a red alert because of such rumors, he said: "Yes."

But when further pressed, Lucero took back what he said, saying that the alert status was raised inside the camp due to threats of lightning protest rallies by militant groups on Edsa during President Macapagal's State of the Nation Address on Monday.

"A mayhem might happen on Edsa during the Sona. But the rumors ... we are not reacting to rumors. There are rumors, but we are not reacting because of the rumors," he said.

He admitted that defense drills were conducted "as the need arises."

Lucero also appealed to the media to stop fanning the rumors.

## False signals

"Maybe this was just blown out of proportion. We are giving false signals to the public about these things. The public should not be wary of what is going on. These coup rumors, per se, are just rumors," he said.

Lucero also confirmed the INQUIRER report that soldiers were held for questioning after stopping over at the Iloilo port but clarified that they consisted of only 11 Scout Rangers and four SWAG personnel.

"A group from their own unit met them at the port; we do not allow our soldiers to alight from vessels with firearms and combat gear," Lucero said.

The show of force that met the soldiers at the Manila port left an awed stevedore to comment that it was the first time he saw a military convoy was allowed to get that close to the wharf.

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From page A1

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"The peso movement was mainly due to expectations of month-end demand and weaker regional currencies. This is import season," said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

When asked whether the central bank sold dollars to prop up the peso, Tetangco declined to answer. Buenaventura said the BSP did not intervene. Traders agreed there was no trace of the BSP in the market.

Traders explained that importers were starting to build up their inventory for Christmas while remittances from overseas workers were trickling in, leading to a scarce supply of dollars in the market.

Yesterday's peso close was the lowest since March 25 when the local currency finished at 54.30 against the US dollar. The local currency hit a record low of 55.099 against the US dollar in March 12.

# Shut up! GMA orders cops; in Bali, Blas talks

om page A1

Ople said the PNP was confident about the recapture of Al-Ghozi, the top bomb-maker of the Jemaah Islamiya terror group.

"I have been in touch with a hilippine police (general), who old me they expect to have results in two or three days," Ople said. It was unclear, however, why he would announce this head of any capture.

"I asked the general that he was possibly too optimistic but he said there is ground for such optimism," Ople said, adding that the NP believed Al-Ghozi was still in the Philippines.

"Five thousand policemen are looking for Al-Ghozi. With the MILF volunteering to help, there is no lace for him to hide," Ople said.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said he was not aware that his group had given the government any information that would lead authorities to Al-Ghozi. He reiterated the MILF's commitment to help the government recapture him, however.

"We have a standing order right now to all commanders on the ground for them to arrest Al-Ghozi and company at the first sight," Kabalu told the Associated Press.

"It's not information but actual action we're committing," Kabalu said. "We have a commitment not to coddle him but to arrest him once we see or locate him."

## Gag order

Despite Ms Macapagal's gag order, which was aimed to stem the tide of speculation, a ranking police official linked ex-Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile to the military officer who had spied on him.

Director Eduardo Matillano, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said Capt. Oscarlito Mapalo of the Armed Forces' Anti-Crime Task Force (Actaf) had "very close ties" with the opposition politician.

Mapalo was with loyalists of deposed President Joseph Estrada when they attacked Malacañang in May 2001, the official told reporters.

"Definitely, he's with the other side," he said. "He has ties with antigovernment elements."

But Matillano could not specify Mapalo's exact involvement in the Labor Day siege of Malacañang or his relationship with Enrile, a supporter of Estrada and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the CIDG chief's longtime nemesis.

Matillano was enraged when he discovered two members of the Naval Intelligence and Security Force casing and taking video footage of his house and cars in Antipolo City on Sunday.

But military officials yesterday brushed off Matillano's insinuation that Mapalo had received orders from Enrile.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff and spokesperson, maintained that military officials did not get orders from civilians, but from the military chain of command.

"It is unusual, and it is not authorized. You only take orders from the chain of command," he said at a press briefing.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Mapalo for comment, but was told that he was out. Mediamen have been trying to contact him for a couple of days, but to no avail.

Garcia said that Mapalo remained Actaf chief, but added that his "eventual disposition" would depend on the outcome of the investigation being conducted by Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, deputy chief of staff for intelligence.

## 30 days

The three-member commission headed by former Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez, which began its investigation this week, was given 30 days to finish its inquiry.

"Let us allow the fact-finding commission to sift through all the facts and allegations and come up with its own judicious findings and recommendations," Ms Macapagal said.

"Speculations will get us nowhere and will play into the hands of the enemy by fragmenting our efforts," she said.

The President ordered PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. to coordinate with the fact-finding commission in order to come up with a "unified system of handling the public disclosure of findings as these evolve in the investigation."

The manhunt for Al-Ghozi has already reached Basilan province.

"We are closely watching the shorelines. If they would come here, they would not use the normal means, they will take motorized sea vessels and move inside the island barangays," said Col. Bonifacio Ramos, 103rd Army Brigade chief.

Ramos said his assets had already coordinated with barangay officials who were "in constant contact with the relatives of the two Abu Sayyaf suspects."

"We are employing all the skills and support of active and inactive assets in this province. We have the full support from the provincial government," said Supt. Bensali Jabarani, the provincial police chief.

Jabarani said Opik had established residence in Barangay Canibungan in Lantawan town, while Edris, a childhood friend, lived in Barangay Riverside in Isabela City.

In Bali, Ople said his Indonesian counterpart Hassan Wirayuda had offered help to recapture Al-Ghozi.

"I told Minister Wirayuda that we appreciate the offer of assistance. He also told me that should Al-Ghozi make the mistake of going to Indonesia, Al-Ghozi will be promptly arrested so he can answer for his crimes," Ople said in a statement released in Manila.

## Spin doctors

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said yesterday Malacañang's own "spin doctors" were blaming others for Al-Ghozi's escape to protect President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Padilla said the "spin doctors" tried to eclipse the Al-Ghozi fiasco by "stage-managing" stories such as the supposed grumbling of junior military officers and rumors of a coup plot.

He said Palace officials had been feeding media with the "imaginary links" between Lacson and police officers blamed for the escape to take away the blame from the President.

"It is purely a wag the dog scenario, a crude, tragicomic one," said Padilla.

The British Embassy in Manila has advised its citizens to avoid travel to Basilan, Sulu and parts of Mindanao, and "take particular care" in Manila and tourist centers because of a greater risk of terrorist activity throughout the country in light of the Al-Ghozi escape. *With reports from AP, AFP; Juliet Javellana, Christian V. Esguerra; Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; TJ Burgonio, Cynthia Balana, Gerald Lacuarta*

## *Edris: Key to finding Al-Ghozi*

A COMPOSITE team of police and military operatives is quietly hunting down Al-Ghozi and the two Abu Sayyaf detainees who bolted Camp Crame last week.

The team's operation has the direct blessing of Malacañang and is separate from the massive manhunt being spearheaded by the PNP.

To recapture Al-Ghozi, the group is first hunting down Abu Sayyaf bomb expert Abdulmukin Ong Edris, according to a team member who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Edris is the key to rearresting Al-Ghozi," the officer told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"Al-Ghozi is Indonesian and he doesn't know the terrain here. So he would need the help of Edris to guide him."

It would be easier to arrest Edris because police and military operatives had already established his dossier and contacts with his friends and relatives, the officer said.

The source was part of the team, headed by the Philippine Air Force, that captured Edris in Pasay City last November.

This made the new hunt somewhat of a bitter personal crusade to some team members, he said.

"We're deeply hurt. We arrested him but they set him free," he said, accusing the PNP's Intelligence Group of facilitating the escape.

The group, he said, has already tapped former assets that helped in the previous arrest.

He said the possible location of Al-Ghozi and Edris had already been identified, but naturally refused to elaborate.

### Dasmariñas, Cavite

When Al-Ghozi, Edris and Omar Opik Lasal walked out of Camp Crame, the source said it was very likely that they proceeded to a Muslim community in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

He said the information had been relayed to Chief Supt. Jaime Karingal, police director for Southern Tagalog.

The place, Barangay Datu Esmael, is home to around 40,000 families from Mindanao. Its obscure location and crisscrossing narrow streets make it very attractive to fugitives.

# Iraqis celebrate death of Saddam's two sons

From page A1

nd a southern city.

Two other Iraqis were killed in the six-hour raid, but Saddam was not among them. The two odies were tentatively identified s that of a bodyguard named Abul Samad and a teenager. Sources said the teenager may have been Qusay's son Mustafa.

The mansion belonged to Nawaf al-Zaydan Muhhamad, a Saddam cousin and tribal leader in the region. Sources said Al-Zaidan tipped off US forces that Uday and Qusay had taken refuge in his home. If so, Saddam's cousin stands to collect a total of $30 million from US authorities.

The United States has offered a $15-million reward each for Uday and Qusay, and $25 million for Saddam. Uday, 39 and Qusay, 37, were Nos. 2 and 3 on the US list of 55 former Iraqi officials wanted by Washington. *(See profiles of Uday and Qusay in The World, Page A12)*

"We are certain that Uday and Qusay were killed today," Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, US ground commander in Iraq, told reporters in Baghdad. "The bodies were in such a condition where you could identify them."

The identifying marks included Uday's scars from a 1996 assassination attempt, according to a senior US defense official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Officials said experts conducted DNA tests on the bodies, which were flown from Mosul to Bayji, 40 km north of Tikrit. The bodies were later brought to the US-controlled international airport in Baghdad.

"We've used multiple, multiple sources to identify the individuals," Sanchez said. Photographers, however, were forbidden by US soldiers from taking pictures of the four bodies.

## The raid

According to witnesses in Mosul, a small force of American soldiers went to the house of Saddam's cousin about 9 a.m. Tuesday after receiving a tip the previous night. The soldiers asked permission to search the house, but the occupants refused. The patrol withdrew until about 10 a.m. when 100 more American soldiers arrived in 25 vehicles.

The US forces opened fire on the stone villa and took fierce return fire from inside the home, the witnesses said.

When US soldiers entered the villa, they immediately came under fire from four people holed up on the second floor that was reinforced with bulletproof glass.

The US soldiers then called in an Apache attack helicopter, which fired 20 missiles into the building. Saddam's sons "died in a fierce gun battle," Sanchez said. Four US soldiers were wounded in the gun battle.

The villa was left charred and smoldering, its high façade riddled with gaping holes from bullets and heavy weaponry. The interior of the house was destroyed and two adjacent homes were badly damaged.

Some Mosul civilians appeared to have been caught in the crossfire. It was not known how many were wounded, but several were taken to a hospital.

After the fighting died down, Iraqi police came to help US soldiers search the villa. About 1,000 people gathered outside the smoldering villa, some expressing delight, others cursing the Americans.

"How can they do this?" shouted a man in the crowd, apparently more concerned with the property damage than the death of two of the cruelest men in Saddam's regime. "What are the Americans doing destroying a house like this?"

## A great day

Blair, speaking during a trip to Hong Kong, hailed the deaths of the two "evil" sons of Saddam, saying they helped lead a regime "responsible for the torture and killing of thousands and thousands of innocent Iraqis."

"This is a great day for the new Iraq," Blair added.

Bush was likewise pleased. "Over the period of many years, these two individuals were responsible for countless atrocities committed against the Iraqi people and they can no longer cast a shadow of hate on Iraq," the White House said in a statement.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said, "The Iraqi people are safer today. We will pursue the other members of his murderous regime wherever they might be hiding."

Sanchez said he thought the security situation now would improve. Daily attacks on US troops are thought to be the work of former military officers and Baath-Party leaders loyal to Saddam and his family—especially his two sons who had played primary roles in the military and feared security services.

"This will prove to the Iraqi people that these two members of the Iraqi regime will never come to power again," Sanchez said.

## Gunfire in Baghad

Gunfire erupted throughout Baghdad, believed to be celebratory as news spread of the deaths of Saddam's sons.

But one US Army unit thought it was coming under fire and shot a man twice in the chest and a young girl once in the head. As the unit retreated under orders, an American medic treated the girl, who was taken to a hospital by a passing car.

People in Diwaniyah, a predominantly Shiite Muslim city in the south, also opened fire in celebration, shooting thousands of rounds into the air. A bullet, however, hit a US Marine guarding a base in the city.

Shiites, who make up the majority in Iraq, had been oppressed by Saddam, a Sunni, during his 23-year rule.

Despite the successful US operation, L. Paul Bremer, Iraq's top civilian administrator, cautioned "there will be some people who will be pretty unhappy that we killed these two guys."

Mosul, 390 km northwest of Baghdad, is home to much of the remaining support for Saddam.

The so-called "Sunni triangle" also is a center of anti-American resistance. A total of 153 American soldiers troops have been killed in action since the US-led war on Iraq began on March 20. *AP*

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## Gag order

Despite Ms Macapagal's gag order, which was aimed to stem the tide of speculation, a ranking police official linked ex-Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile to the military officer who had spied on him.

Director Eduardo Matillano, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said Capt. Oscarlito Mapalo of the Armed Forces' Anti-Crime Task Force (Actaf) had "very close ties" with the opposition politician.

Mapalo was with loyalists of deposed President Joseph Estrada when they attacked Malacañang in May 2001, the official told reporters.

"Definitely, he's with the other side," he said. "He has ties with antigovernment elements."

But Matillano could not specify Mapalo's exact involvement in the Labor Day siege of Malacañang or his relationship with Enrile, a supporter of Estrada and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the CIDG chief's longtime nemesis.

Matillano was enraged when he discovered two members of the Naval Intelligence and Security Force casing and taking video footage of his house and cars in Antipolo City on Sunday.

But military officials yesterday brushed off Matillano's insinuation that Mapalo had received orders from Enrile.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff and spokesperson, maintained that military officials did not get orders from civilians, but from the military chain of command.

"It is unusual, and it is not authorized. You only take orders from the chain of command," he said at a press briefing.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Mapalo for comment, but was told that he was out. Mediamen have been trying to contact him for a couple of days, but to no avail.

Garcia said that Mapalo remained Actaf chief, but added that his "eventual disposition" would depend on the outcome of the investigation being conducted by Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, deputy chief of staff for intelligence.

## 30 days

The three-member commission headed by former Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez, which began its investigation this week, was given 30 days to finish its inquiry.

"Let us allow the fact-finding commission to sift through all the facts and allegations and come up with its own judicious findings and recommendations," Ms Macapagal said.

"Speculations will get us nowhere and will play into the hands of the enemy by fragmenting our efforts," she said.

The President ordered PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. to coordinate with the fact-finding commission in order to come up with a "unified system of handling the public disclosure of findings as these evolve in the investigation."

The manhunt for Al-Ghozi has already reached Basilan province.

"We are closely watching the shorelines. If they would come here, they would not use the normal means, they will take motorized sea vessels and move inside the island barangays," said Col. Bonifacio Ramos, 103rd Army Brigade chief.

Ramos said his assets had already coordinated with barangay officials who were "in constant contact with the relatives of the two Abu Sayyaf suspects."

"We are employing all the skills and support of active and inactive assets in this province. We have the full support from the provincial government," said Supt. Bensali Jabarani, the provincial police chief.

Jabarani said Opik had established residence in Barangay Canibungan in Lantawan town, while Edris, a childhood friend, lived in Barangay Riverside in Isabela City.

In Bali, Ople said his Indonesian counterpart Hassan Wirayuda had offered help to recapture Al-Ghozi.

"I told Minister Wirayuda that we appreciate the offer of assistance. He also told me that should Al-Ghozi make the mistake of going to Indonesia, Al-Ghozi will be promptly arrested so he can answer for his crimes," Ople said in a statement released in Manila.

## Spin doctors

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said yesterday Malacañang's own "spin doctors" were blaming others for Al-Ghozi's escape to protect President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Padilla said the "spin doctors" tried to eclipse the Al-Ghozi fiasco by "stage-managing" stories such as the supposed grumbling of junior military officers and rumors of a coup plot.

He said Palace officials had been feeding media with the "imaginary links" between Lacson and police officers blamed for the escape to take away the blame from the President.

"It is purely a wag the dog scenario, a crude, tragicomic one," said Padilla.

The British Embassy in Manila has advised its citizens to avoid travel to Basilan, Sulu and parts of Mindanao, and "take particular care" in Manila and tourist centers because of a greater risk of terrorist activity throughout the country in light of the Al-Ghozi escape. ***With reports from AP, AFP; Juliet Javellana, Christian V. Esguerra; Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; TJ Burgonio, Cynthia Balana, Gerald Lacuarta***

## *Edris: Key to finding Al-Ghozi*

A COMPOSITE team of police and military operatives is quietly hunting down Al-Ghozi and the two Abu Sayyaf detainees who bolted Camp Crame last week.

The team's operation has the direct blessing of Malacañang and is separate from the massive manhunt being spearheaded by the PNP.

To recapture Al-Ghozi, the group is first hunting down Abu Sayyaf bomb expert Abdulmukin Ong Edris, according to a team member who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Edris is the key to rearresting Al-Ghozi," the officer told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"Al-Ghozi is Indonesian and he doesn't know the terrain here. So he would need the help of Edris to guide him."

It would be easier to arrest Edris because police and military operatives had already established his dossier and contacts with his friends and relatives, the officer said.

The source was part of the team, headed by the Philippine Air Force, that captured Edris in Pasay City last November.

This made the new hunt somewhat of a bitter personal crusade to some team members, he said.

"We're deeply hurt. We arrested him but they set him free," he said, accusing the PNP's Intelligence Group of facilitating the escape.

The group, he said, has already tapped former assets that helped in the previous arrest.

He said the possible location of Al-Ghozi and Edris had already been identified, but naturally refused to elaborate.

### Dasmariñas, Cavite

When Al-Ghozi, Edris and Omar Opik Lasal walked out of Camp Crame, the source said it was very likely that they proceeded to a Muslim community in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

He said the information had been relayed to Chief Supt. Jaime Karingal, police director for Southern Tagalog.

The place, Barangay Datu Esmael, is home to around 40,000 families from Mindanao. Its obscure location and crisscrossing narrow streets make it very attractive to fugitives.

# Iraqis celebrate death of Saddam's two sons

From page A1

and a southern city.

Two other Iraqis were killed in the six-hour raid, but Saddam was not among them. The two bodies were tentatively identified as that of a bodyguard named Abdul Samad and a teenager. Sources said the teenager may have been Qusay's son Mustafa.

The mansion belonged to Nawaf al-Zaydan Muhhamad, a Saddam cousin and tribal leader in the region. Sources said Al-Zaidan tipped off US forces that Uday and Qusay had taken refuge in his home. If so, Saddam's cousin stands to collect a total of $30 million from US authorities.

The United States has offered a $15-million reward each for Uday and Qusay, and $25 million for Saddam. Uday, 39 and Qusay, 37, were Nos. 2 and 3 on the US list of 55 former Iraqi officials wanted by Washington. *(See profiles of Uday and Qusay in The World, Page A12)*

"We are certain that Uday and Qusay were killed today," Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, US ground commander in Iraq, told reporters in Baghdad. "The bodies were in such a condition where you could identify them."

The identifying marks included Uday's scars from a 1996 assassination attempt, according to a senior US defense official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Officials said experts conducted DNA tests on the bodies, which were flown from Mosul to Bayji, 40 km north of Tikrit. The bodies were later brought to the US-controlled international airport in Baghdad.

"We've used multiple, multiple sources to identify the individuals," Sanchez said. Photographers, however, were forbidden by US soldiers from taking pictures of the four bodies.

## The raid

According to witnesses in Mosul, a small force of American soldiers went to the house of Saddam's cousin about 9 a.m. Tuesday after receiving a tip the previous night. The soldiers asked permission to search the house, but the occupants refused. The patrol withdrew until about 10 a.m. when 100 more American soldiers arrived in 25 vehicles.

The US forces opened fire on the stone villa and took fierce return fire from inside the home, the witnesses said.

When US soldiers entered the villa, they immediately came under fire from four people holed up on the second floor that was reinforced with bulletproof glass.

The US soldiers then called in an Apache attack helicopter, which fired 20 missiles into the building. Saddam's sons "died in a fierce gun battle," Sanchez said. Four US soldiers were wounded in the gun battle.

The villa was left charred and smoldering, its high façade riddled with gaping holes from bullets and heavy weaponry. The interior of the house was destroyed and two adjacent homes were badly damaged.

Some Mosul civilians appeared to have been caught in the crossfire. It was not known how many were wounded, but several were taken to a hospital.

After the fighting died down, Iraqi police came to help US soldiers search the villa. About 1,000 people gathered outside the smoldering villa, some expressing delight, others cursing the Americans.

"How can they do this?" shouted a man in the crowd, apparently more concerned with the property damage than the death of two of the cruelest men in Saddam's regime. "What are the Americans doing destroying a house like this?"

## A great day

Blair, speaking during a trip to Hong Kong, hailed the deaths of the two "evil" sons of Saddam, saying they helped lead a regime "responsible for the torture and killing of thousands and thousands of innocent Iraqis."

"This is a great day for the new Iraq," Blair added.

Bush was likewise pleased. "Over the period of many years, these two individuals were responsible for countless atrocities committed against the Iraqi people and they can no longer cast a shadow of hate on Iraq," the White House said in a statement.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said, "The Iraqi people are safer today. We will pursue the other members of his murderous regime wherever they might be hiding."

Sanchez said he thought the security situation now would improve. Daily attacks on US troops are thought to be the work of former military officers and Baath-Party leaders loyal to Saddam and his family—especially his two sons who had played primary roles in the military and feared security services.

"This will prove to the Iraqi people that these two members of the Iraqi regime will never come to power again," Sanchez said.

## Gunfire in Baghad

Gunfire erupted throughout Baghdad, believed to be celebratory as news spread of the deaths of Saddam's sons.

But one US Army unit thought it was coming under fire and shot a man twice in the chest and a young girl once in the head. As the unit retreated under orders, an American medic treated the girl, who was taken to a hospital by a passing car.

People in Diwaniyah, a predominantly Shiite Muslim city in the south, also opened fire in celebration, shooting thousands of rounds into the air. A bullet, however, hit a US Marine guarding a base in the city.

Shiites, who make up the majority in Iraq, had been oppressed by Saddam, a Sunni, during his 23-year rule.

Despite the successful US operation, L. Paul Bremer, Iraq's top civilian administrator, cautioned "there will be some people who will be pretty unhappy that we killed these two guys."

Mosul, 390 km northwest of Baghdad, is home to much of the remaining support for Saddam.

The so-called "Sunni triangle" also is a center of anti-American resistance. A total of 153 American soldiers troops have been killed in action since the US-led war on Iraq began on March 20. *AP*

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# ₱1B worth of crops destroyed

From page A1

Earlier, Maguindanao provincial administrator Norie Unas, said eight persons had died since Sunday when flash floods hit 18 of the province's 26 towns because of the continuous heavy downpour in the northern and southern hinterlands.

Most of the dead were elders and children, Unas said. No names were supplied.

In Pagbilao, Quezon, two men died in a vehicular accident at the height of the typhoon on Tuesday afternoon. A 10-wheel truck they were riding fell into a 100-meter-deep ravine in Sitio Sapinid, Barangay Silangang Malicboy.

A police report identified the victims as Gerry Magdiray of Bangkerohan, Catarman, northern Samar, driver of the cargo truck bearing plate number TAZ-388, and Arnel Manatica, truck helper and resident of Lapinig, northern Samar.

## Isabela, hardest hit

The earlier overall death toll was six, including five crushed by a falling tree on Romblon.

Secretary Lorenzo said initial reports from the Department of Agriculture field operations indicated that Region 2, specifically the province of Isabela, was hardest hit by the typhoon.

He said the damage could trigger a corn shortage and break the momentum of a robust corn production for the rest of the year.

"There is now a need to import some 300,000 metric tons of corn to [meet] the requirements specifically for the food manufacturers and feed millers," he added.

The DA had a corn production target of 4.7 million metric tons, projected to more than fulfill this year's annual corn production requirement of 5.5 million metric tons.

Local companies using corn in their products may now have to avail themselves of the 200,000 metric tons of corn allowed by the government at lower import tariffs.

The DA is seeking an additional budget of P34 million from the Office of the President to replenish the rice and corn seeds to be redistributed to the hard-hit areas.

## Isolated

The province of Aurora is isolated from the rest of Central Luzon because of landslides on the only two roads leading to it—via Bongabong and Pantabangan towns in Nueva Ecija.

Aurora's access to Southern Tagalog provinces via the eastern tip of the Pacific Ocean is now also limited because of rough seas.

The Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) in Central Luzon said at least P2.5 million worth of crops were destroyed in Aurora.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) based in San Jose City in Nueva Ecija said 617 families from nine villages in the city evacuated on Tuesday night to the Pagasa gym.

It said floodwaters in the villages of Sta. Veronica, Cavite, Maturanoc, Sto. Cristo and Saranay in Guimba town rose from five to 10 feet. Seven villages in Sto. Domingo town were also under four to five feet of water.

The regional office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development said 265 families in three villages in Cabanatuan City, also in Nueva Ecija, had been moved to high grounds.

The regional OCD said the Maharlika Highway to Dalton Pass was still impassable because of landslides along Barangays Piut and Digdig in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija.

The provincial government sent 200 food packs to commuters stranded in Carranglan.

Police said a vehicle was buried in the landslides in Piut. It was not known if it had passengers.

## High ground

In Tarlac, the RDCC said 50 families in Barangays Pitao, Poblacion Sur and Daldalayap in San Clemente town moved to high ground when waters of the Batacan River at the boundary of the town and Mangatarem, Pangasinan, overflowed on Tuesday.

Reports from the Tarlac Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) said floods had displaced 1,680 families in 72 barangays in Tarlac City and in the towns of Anao, Camiling, Paniqui, Moncada, San Clemente, Mayantoc, San Manuel, Bamban and La Paz.

Reports from the DA said 2,000 cavans of seedlings worth P1.3 million were destroyed.

All villages in San Manuel town remained underwater.

The Camiling River in Camiling, Batacan River in San Clemente, and Rio Chico River in La Paz have been declared critical.

In Ilocos Sur, power had yet to be restored. Classes in all levels remained suspended.

In La Union, the PDCC reported that 69 villages and 2,152 families in 12 towns were affected by floods. Worst hit were the towns of Caba and Bacnotan.

At least 100 houses were destroyed, and P10 million worth of infrastructure damaged.

At least four towns in Laguna remained without power.

Diosdado Corsiga, officer in charge of the First Laguna Electric Co., said the outage in Siniloan, Famy, Mabitac and Santa Maria started Tuesday.

## Tail end

"What we experienced was not the typhoon itself but its tail end when it entered the Eastern Visayas region," said Lita Enok, disaster office regional director for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, to which Maguindanao belongs.

Close to 200,000 persons have been directly affected by floods in Maguindanao alone, according to relief agency officials.

In the farming town of Libungan, North Cotabato, 62-year-old farmer Rodrigo Domingo drowned as he tried to rescue his pig, said Libungan Mayor Rolando Pader.

"This is very frustrating," Pader said of the devastation. "It's the first time in our town that flash floods of this magnitude hit Libungan."

He said rice paddies were destroyed, the national highway linking Maguindanao and North Cotabato was flooded, and work animals, refrigerators and other household appliances were washed away. *Reports from Christine Gaylican in Manila; Tonette Orejas, Ronaldo Dizon, Russell Arador and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Gia Damaso-Dumo and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# GMA hosts dinner in Malacañang for griping officers

From page A1

They had reportedly been griping about low pay, lack of housing and incentives and corruption in the military.

Surprisingly, the President did not raise their gripes. Neither did her invited guests.

"There was no talk about the gripes of the officers," one of Ms Macapagal's military aides told INQ7.net and the INQUIRER.

"It was purely social and very cordial," said a member of Class '95.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, whose "micromanagement style of the Armed Forces" was one of the issues raised by the young officers in their bull sessions with more senior officers, was not at the dinner, according to the INQUIRER source. But the commanders of the major services of the Armed Forces, including the chief of staff attended the "social."

"It was very light, very friendly atmosphere. Nothing serious was discussed," he added.

The officers, who held the rank of captains in the Army, Marines, Air Force and Lieutenant Senior Grade in the Navy, were accompanied by Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Narciso Abaya, the source said.

Also present were Army chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Nestor Santillan and Philippine Navy flag-officer-in-command Rear Admiral de Leon.

The young officers' dinner with the President came after her meeting with Abaya and Reyes earlier at the Palace.

## Death threats

Last week, members of PMA Class 1995 met to talk about the situation of Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Fuentes Trillanes IV.

Trillanes was present during the "mistahs" meeting.

Magna cum laude of PMA Class '95, Trillanes,31, had prepared a thesis on corruption in the Navy in compliance for a master's degree in public administration at the University of the Philippines.

According to Abaya, Trillanes had sought refuge in the Presidential Security after he received threats on his life.

A source told the INQUIRER that President Macapagal last night asked PMA class '95 president, Capt. Segundino Orflano, what the class discussed in their meeting last week.

"Our class president told her what we discussed and that we are against corruption," the INQUIRER source said.

Members of the PMA Class 1995 left Malacanang Palace around 10 p.m., more than three hours after it started.

## Trillanes absent

Trillanes, however, was not present during the social last night.

The source also said Trillanes continue to receive death threats until now.

# Midair midwife a priest

From page A1

Cebu proved equal to the situation when he delivered a fellow passenger's baby girl on board Philippine Airlines flight PR 104 bound for San Francisco, California, on July 18.

The scene was straight out of a Hollywood movie, according to the mother of one of the passengers who was seated in the same economy section as Malana. The mother related the incident to the INQUIRER based on a phone conversation Tuesday with her daughter who is now on vacation in San Francisco.

Malana responded to the captain's call for assistance from the passengers after the bag of waters of Aurora Galicia, a passenger in the first class section, broke while in flight.

The priest, who was traveling alone, went up to a flight stewardess and introduced himself thus: "I am Fr. Butch Malana, I am a priest, and I am also a medical graduate."

He then made his way to the first class section, asked for a bottle of champagne to sterilize his hands, and assisted Galicia in giving birth to her baby.

"There was no medical equipment on board. My daughter said Father Butch bit on the umbilical cord that was wound around the baby's neck when it came out," said the source.

The baby made no sound, and Malana proceeded to suck liquid and blood from her nose.

When the baby let out her first cry, the passengers and crew erupted into thunderous applause.

Malana baptized the child, named Amanda Cherish, with entertainment personality Donita Rose and two members of the Araneta clan standing as sponsors.

Later, passengers and crew held an impromptu party to celebrate what they said was "good luck" not just for the plane but also for those on board.

Returning to Manila last weekend, Rose confirmed that she had assisted a woman who gave birth while in flight.

"I wished that the baby would be named after me," she wistfully told a TV crew.

## Hospital chaplain

Malana, chaplain of the Cebu City Medical Center, completed a course in medicine at the Cebu Gullas College of Medicine in 1997 but did not take a licensure exam.

He has headed the Sto. Niño Children's Center, a home for abandoned babies and children in Barangay Candaguit, Sibonga, since 1989, and is the founder of the Friends of Saint Augustine in the Guadalupe Viejo parish in Makati City.

## Formal recognition

Formal recognition awaits Malana for the help he extended to Galicia and her infant, said Rolando Estabillo, PAL vice president for corporate communications.

Quoting purser Nina del Rosario, Estabillo said PR 104 left the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila at about 10:30 p.m. of July 17.

Galicia, of Purok Tabangan East, Dagupan City, complained of labor pains at about 3:40 a.m. the following day.

She was put in the crew rest area at the first class section while a doctor was sought from among those on board.

A nurse came forward and, along with three crew members who are also nurses, started to administer the Lamaze method on Galicia.

When the mother-to-be became more restless, the crew advised the captain.

Estabillo said that at 5:20 a.m., the captain considered diverting the flight to the Honolulu airport. By then, Malana had approached the crew and introduced himself.

"The baby girl was delivered at exactly 5:50 a.m. At 6:15 a.m., Father Malana declared both mother and baby out of danger," Estabillo quoted Del Rosario as saying.

Upon arriving in San Francisco, Galicia and her baby were met by PAL officials and whisked away in an ambulance.

## First aid only

Like other commercial flights, PAL flights do not carry medical equipment for emergencies such as childbirth, according to PAL Cebu spokesperson Simoun Canton.

"What we have are the usual first-aid kits. We don't have doctors on board, unlike passenger ships, but our staff members are trained in emergency first aid," he said.

"The thing is," he added, "in such a situation, there is almost always a doctor on board."

A pregnant woman traveling by air is required to fill out a form that serves as a medical certificate signed by both her doctor and the airline's doctor, Canton said.

"And we don't allow passengers who are eight months and beyond in their pregnancy [to board]. If there are those who slip through, I'm sure their doctors are liable for such an erroneous declaration," Canton said. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

# Quarreling over ₱38-B Marcos loot disturbing

From page A1

The President made the proposal pending the enactment of a law authorizing the payment of compensation.

Rosales said that it was Congress that should set the amount for the rights victims. She insisted that the amount should be P10 billion based on the judgment rendered by a Hawaii district court in favor of a class suit filed by Marcos human rights victims.

Because of Rosales' criticism, Malacañang is now leaving it to Congress to fix the amount for the rights victims.

"The President just made the announcement that she's earmarking P8 billion for this purpose," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said. "She's in support of the legitimate claims of the human rights victims so this is something that probably would have to be decided at the level of Congress."

Bunye said there would be funds to cover whatever the amount set by Congress. "It depends. If Congress amends the law accordingly and increases the allocation for human rights victims, I guess this will be funded," he said.

Congress has to amend the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) which mandates that proceeds of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth be used for agrarian reform. HB 4535 seeks to amend CARL.

## Other victims

Ocampo wants a Malacañang certification of the original version of HB 4535 to ensure that the measure's chief intent of indemnifying the martial law victims is upheld.

"A Palace certification will make it easier for the bill to be passed," Ocampo said. He noted that there were congressmen who want to come up with a generic measure that will include rights victims of post-Marcos governments.

In the Senate, the justice committee and human rights chaired by Sen. Francis Pangilinan is set to circulate this week its committee report endorsing a counterpart bill of HB 4535 for the approval of its 15 members.

Pangilinan said the committee report would endorse Senate Bill No. 1877, the proposed "Human Rights Victims Compensation Act of 2001," authored by Arroyo.

"The committee report will include most of the salient features of the Arroyo bill," Pangilinan said yesterday. "It will adopt many of the provisions of his measure with some amendments."

Arroyo, a human rights lawyer who fought the Marcos regime, said SB 1877, which he filed on Nov. 12, 2001, sought to address the compensation of people who fell victim to the regime between Sept. 21, 1972 and Feb. 26, 1986.

In a phone interview, he said the compensation should go to Marcos human rights victims because the money came from the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcos government.

## Unsung heroes

"The bill was filed with the noblest purposes—to give due recognition to our unsung heroes," Arroyo said in the statement he issued.

"Many persons of consequences as well as ordinary citizens who resisted the dictatorship and suffered in different forms have indicated that they too would want to be recorded as part of the documented record of human rights victims although they will not apply for compensation," he said. For them, it was enough that they are recorded as victims.

In the explanatory note, the bill acknowledges that the State has the obligation to compensate victims of human rights violations.

Besides setting aside a portion of the Marcos loot held in an escrow account of the Philippine National Bank, the bill seeks to recognize the need to officially document the history of human rights violations of the Marcos regime.

The measure also establishes criteria for compensating other victims of such human rights violations, as well as provide the statutory bases and guidelines for awarding compensation.

In Malacañang, Bunye brushed off Arroyo's statement that the escrow account should not be transferred to the Bureau of Treasury because the rights victims might not be able to get their share.

Bunye said the funds that go to the treasury were disbursed in accordance with the budget approved by Congress.

"This is procedural. Of course the funds have to go somewhere and the normal procedure is that when funds are collected, they are remitted to the national treasury," Bunye said.

The President was expecting the P38 billion in Marcos loot transferred to the treasury as soon as the Supreme Court ruling was finalized. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*

# Mother of 4 Marcos human rights victims dead at 89

From page A1

that our celebration may not yet be complete," said Enriquez, herself an activist jailed for almost two years by Marcos' military.

Enriquez is now the secretary general of Selda, a group of martial law victims demanding compensation from the Marcoses and "recognition" from the government.

The Hilao couple and eight other named plaintiffs filed a class suit against Marcos in a US court on behalf of 9,539 claimant-victims, Enriquez said. "That's why the case has been called 'Hilao et al vs Ferdinand Marcos'."

Maximo, a fisherman, who like his wife Sisang hailed from Bulan, Sorsogon, died in 1988—or two years after they filed the class suit—at age 79.

"So how much longer do we have to wait and how many more victims must die?" Enriquez asked.

She noted that 17 years after the ouster of Marcos martial law victims "are still being told to wait" for a law be to finally be indemnified.

Enriquez was reacting to the announcement of President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday that she was setting aside P8 billion of the P38 billion in Marcos loot for the martial law claimants, subject to the passage of an "enabling law" by Congress.

Selda (Samahan ng mga Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Para sa Amnestiya) is the main group of claimants demanding the immediate approval of Senate and House bills allotting P10 billion—not just P8 billion—to compensate the victims.

It further irked Enriquez to hear Ms Macapagal speak of a compensation package P2 billion less than the amount sought by the bills.

"What's this?" she exclaimed in Filipino. "Now that we're closer to getting the money we are still being milked by P2 billion? *Pinipitikan pa rin kami?*"

On her late mother, Enriquez said she was of the "rare kind" of parent who "respected our views and decisions" to join the anti-Marcos movement even during those dangerous times.

"She would even remind me to stay alert during rallies and wear rubber shoes so that I could run much faster," said Enriquez, who was then a member of the militant Kabataang Makabayan.

At the family's dining table, Enriquez recalled, "We (the children) were encouraged to discuss the day's issues, for they (our parents) themselves are against what Marcos was doing."

## Bitter price

But all that democratic space in the household came at a bitter price.

Shortly after the Hilao residence on Batino Street in Project 2, Quezon City, was raided by members of the Philippine Constabulary on April 4, 1973, four of the nine Hilao children were arrested one by one for being anti-Marcos activists.

But the darkest hour for the Hilao couple came with the death of Liliosa (Lily), the third youngest, on April 6, 1973, just on her second day of detention at Camp Crame.

The first to be arrested of the Hilao siblings, Lily was then a journalism student, cum laude candidate, and editor of "Hasik," the campus publication of the Pamantasan ng Maynila.

The family was later told by her custodians that "Lily" had allegedly committed suicide by drinking muriatic acid inside the toilet.

"But we know she was really raped and then killed," said Enriquez, who was arrested in October 1974.

Two more Hilao siblings—the youngest who then was just a teenage girl and a brother older than Enriquez—were also arrested. They spent almost four years in jail.

Enriquez said her mother, after a weeklong hospital confinement, died at the Las Piñas residence of one of her sisters at around 11:30 p.m. on July 21.

Cremation is scheduled for Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

# Travel of Pinoy tourists relaxed

THE BUREAU of Immigration has relaxed the requirements for departing Filipino tourists in a bid to eliminate corruption in the agency.

The announcement yesterday followed a Malacañang directive widening the scope of the lifestyle checks of government officials and a finance department decision to charge with graft four officials from the internal revenue and customs bureaus for unexplained wealth.

"This new policy is in consonance with the right of every Filipino citizen to travel as enshrined in our Constitution," said Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo in a statement.

Immigration officers will no longer require departing Filipino tourists to present affidavits of support from a relative in the country of destination and, in the case of unaccompanied minors, an authority to travel from the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

With the order, any Filipino passenger with a valid passport, a valid visa and a round-trip ticket—the basic requirements for tourists—will be allowed to leave.

The memorandum order was issued on June 8 and directed all immigration personnel deployed at the country's airports and subports to ease the immigration formalities for departing Filipinos.

Domingo said the order was aimed at eliminating one of the opportunities for corruption among immigration personnel. *Martin P. Marfil*

## US sends advance party for Bush visit

TEAMS of US security personnel are in the Philippines to prepare for the visit of US President George W. Bush here in October, a Filipino official said yesterday.

Secret Service and Federal Bureau of Investigation experts have arrived in three batches to assess the security in Manila, Air Transportation Office chief Adelberto Yap told reporters.

"They will survey the routes that would be used by US President George W. Bush during his visit to Manila this October," Yap said.

"They are also in place to make sure that there would be no terrorist activities that would be done while their president is in the country," he added.

Manila has stressed that the escape here last week of convicted Indonesian Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi would not lead to the cancellation of the Bush visit. *AFP*

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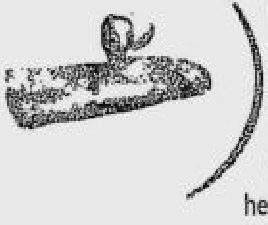

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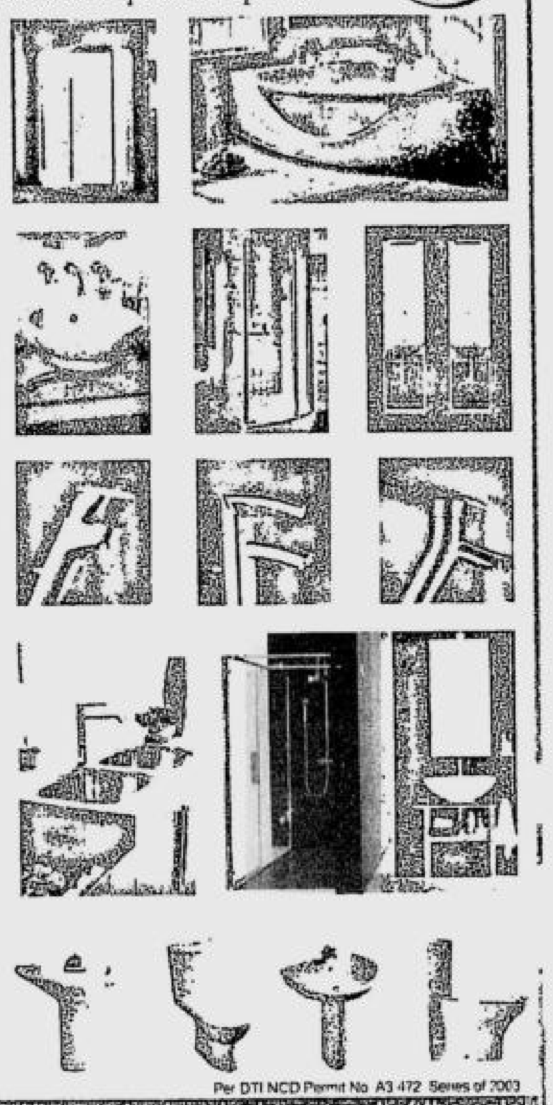

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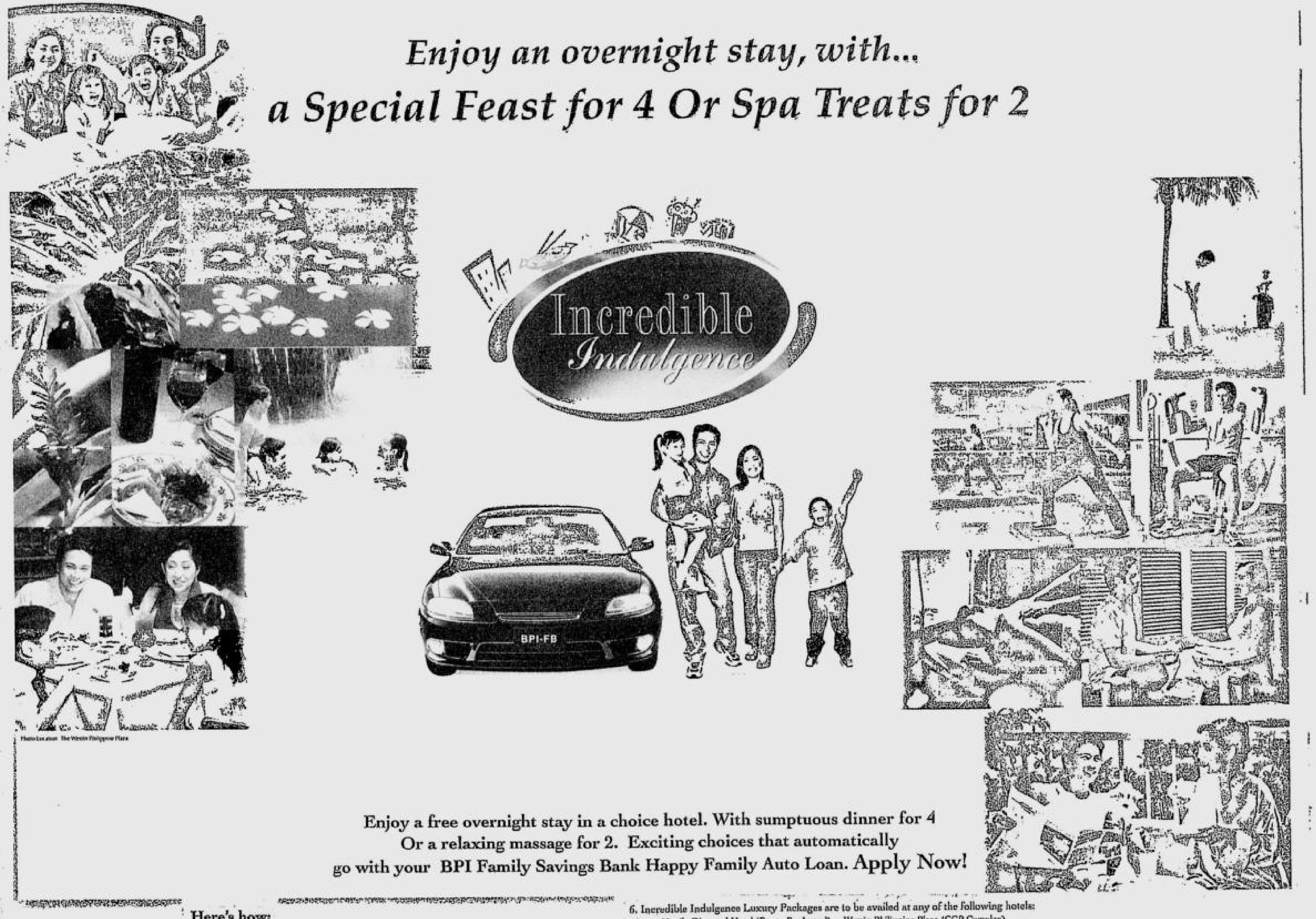
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ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 18 No. 226
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

# OPINION

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
• Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
• P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
• Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
• Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
• Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
100% soy ink

*Publisher* **Isagani Yambot**
*Editor in Chief* **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
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**EDITORIALS**

## Conspiracy

THANKS to PO1 Ronald Palmeras, the great escape of Fathur al-Ghozi is turning out to be a case of conspiracy, not stupidity. Palmeras, the guard on duty when Al-Ghozi took off, has said that the top police intelligence brass might have known about the defective jail gate that enabled the notorious prisoner and two others to bolt last July 14. He has denied he was sleeping on the job. He has also revealed he had been made the jail guard only late last month despite his lack of training in jail management. All signs point to a disturbing scenario in which he was set up by his superiors to become the fall guy for the escape.

It would not be surprising if the utility boy Abu Ali has also been set up as another fall guy. Ali is an ex-detainee who is a state witness against Al-Ghozi and who has been inexplicably made a utility man in the Intelligence Group (IG), providing him access to the jail. He has confessed to telling Al-Ghozi about the defective jail gate.

The development bolsters the view that the Al-Ghozi incident had been prefigured by the great escapes of other top wanted men in the custody of the Philippine National Police (PNP). This strengthens everyone's suspicion that the police top brass has not been really lax in detaining alleged enemies of peace; it has just been its regular self—a crooked, shady enemy of peace.

Now the investigation has zeroed in on the role allegedly played by Supt. Reuben Galban in the escape. The dismissed chief of the IG's Foreign Intelligence Liaison Office had been spotted in his car in front of the IG's old building at the time Al-Ghozi and two other inmates bolted from their detention cells. Galban admitted he went to Camp Crame around the time of the jailbreak but denied he arranged the escape.

The plot should thicken in the next few days as the PNP and a presidential inquiry conduct their separate investigations. But this early, it seems the former inquiry is headed toward self-destruction. It cannot be otherwise as it seems to have exposed itself as nothing but a mockery, a well-contrived yarn that is too well contrived for its own good.

## Stupidity

WHAT the inquiry has betrayed is that the police top brass seems to rely too much on its old bag of tricks to carry it through one of its more sordid misses. In fact, it was staging a reenactment of the escape when the roof collapsed on the PNP.

As the PNP top brass stage-managed the reenactment for the media, ordering Palmares to assume the position of his station, even asking him to act the part of the sleeping guard, the young officer raised a howl. He refused to pretend to sleep. "I was not sleeping during the escape, so why would I shame myself during the reenactment?" he complained.

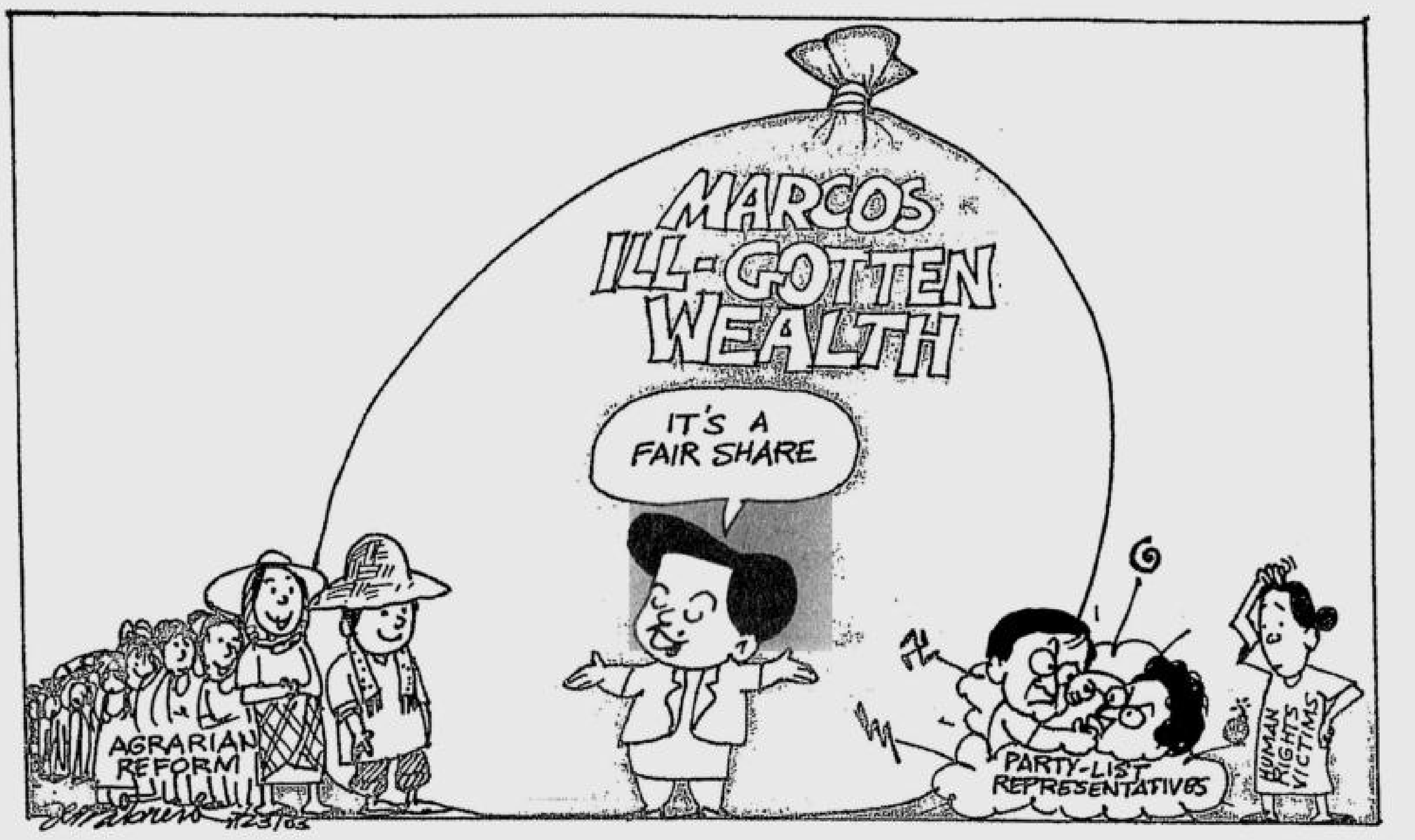
The PNP top brass is pushing its luck. It had obviously wanted Palmares to play the sleeping guard before the media so that he could be permanently tagged and ruined as the one who let one of the world's most wanted men escape. The dirty tactic of the PNP should make the media and the public at large reconsider the police practice of lining up suspects before the press and portraying them as criminals—until the courts throw out the cases because of sloppy police work, planted police evidence and lack of warrants.

It took a young idealistic officer to expose the wiles and deceptions of the PNP. Palmares, who's only 23, had wanted to serve the police with competence and integrity to live up to the name of his father, also a former intelligence officer. But he said the PNP seemed to have exploited his inexperience.

He said he was surprised, but did not ask questions when he was assigned to guard the cells of high-profile terrorists late last month despite his lack of training in jail management. In addition, he said he did not ask questions when Al-Ghozi, the bomb expert of Jemaah Islamiyah, and Abu Sayyaf bandits Abdulrukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal were transferred from the better secured cells on the ground floor to the defective cell on the second floor. He said his superiors even made him sign the logbook even if the detainees were not accounted for.

Now he has broken his silence. "I'm willing to compromise the service," Palmares said. "My family's name and dignity have been the casualties here. I can't go on forever labeled as the stupid guard who let Al-Ghozi escape."

At least, here is one cop who is not stupid.



## EO restraining squatter eviction unconstitutional

### As I See It

*Neal H. Cruz*

WHO is the biggest squatter coddler in the Philippines today? Interior Secretary Joey Lina, principal author of the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA), better known as the Lina Law, which worsened the squatting problem a hundredfold? No. The mayors who court the squatters' votes? No. The barangay officials who not only court squatter votes but also collect *tong* and rent from them? No. The congressmen and senators whose hearts "bleed" for the squatters also because of their votes? Still no.

Those mentioned above are all squatter coddlers but they're not the biggest. The agency that is the champion of squatters is the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor. And all because President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Executive Order 152 designating the PCUP as the "clearing house for the demolition and eviction of squatters."

Under the EO, local government units (LGUs) and other government and private agencies will have to get a clearance from the PCUP before any ejectment and demolition. And, mind you, even with a court order, which makes a mere commission more powerful than the judiciary.

Bursting with its newly acquired powers, the PCUP then issued the implementing rules of the EO. Among them is a long "checklist" (there are at least 12 items) of documents required to be affixed to the application for clearance. In other words, instead of following the President's promise to shorten red tape in the government, the PCUP has made the red tape even longer. Worse, it has made ejecting squatters virtually impossible. It has made law-breakers, the squatters, very privileged people, virtual kings with their victims, the property owners, as their slaves.

The EO even punishes with criminal, administrative and civil prosecution any person who violates any of its provisions. Police-assistance cannot even be provided without the clearance of the PCUP.

The EO and implementing rules are so onerous that it leads one to think that the EO and the rules were written by the syndicates behind the squatters and then sent to Malacañang for signature, just as it is suspected that the draft of the UDHA was written by the squatter organizations together with the bleeding hearts among the clergy. The EO was signed and promulgated during an urban poor anniversary and the President must have done it to make herself *mabango* with the urban poor, unaware of its repercussions.

But EO 152 is unconstitutional and illegal, according to legal experts. The law firm of Alberto C. Agra and Associates, which made a study of the EO, said it conflicts with the UDHA which the EO itself is supposed to implement.

The PCUP cannot be the sole clearinghouse for squatter eviction because the UDHA specifically designates local government units (LGUs) as the primary and lead agencies of the UDHA. Section 39 states: "Local government units shall be charged with the implementation of this Act in their respective localities in coordination with (among others) the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor." How can the PCUP then be superior to the LGUs? The PCUP has been designated by law only as a secondary implementing agency. There is no law that authorizes the PCUP to be the lead agency in the implementation of the UDHA.

"Thus, the subject EO which designates the PCUP as the sole clearinghouse for the conduct of demolition and eviction is illegal," said the law firm. "An executive order is invalid if it conflicts with, extends or modifies the governing statute (the UDHA)."

Moreover, an EO cannot define an offense (in this case, failure to secure a clearance before eviction is an administrative and criminal offense under Sections 6 and 7 of the EO). "Only Congress can," said the law firm. "Even Congress cannot delegate the authority to declare what act shall constitute an offense to the Executive Branch."

Furthermore, the EO "goes against two statutes: 1. the 1991 Local Government Code which authorizes (without getting prior clearance from the PCUP or any other national government agency) LGUs to abate public nuisances even without judicial proceedings and cause the demolition or removal of illegally constructed houses; and 2. the National Building Code which empowers local governments (enforcement of the Building Code) to cause the demolition of illegal constructions.

The law firm also explained that demolition and eviction are a local decentralized function. Congress has expressly delegated this function to LGUs, not to the PCUP.

"The President cannot centralize this power/function. Only Congress can do this. Thus, the provision in the EO that requires and compels LGUs to prepare and submit checklists and obtain clearance certificates (paragraph 2, Section 1) under pain of administrative and criminal prosecution (Sections 6 and 7) prior to demolition and eviction is illegal. The EO illegally requires prior approval from the PCUP before the LGU can act and perform its mandate under the UDHA.

"Imposing restrictions by way of executive flat in the exercise of local delegated powers when there is no such limitation in the law (UDHA) amounts to executive control, not merely supervision, and is therefore unconstitutional. The Constitution only allows executive supervision.

"Supervision means overseeing, or that power of an officer to see that the subordinate officers perform their duties. Supervisory power when contrasted with control is the power of mere oversight and it does not include the power to restrain."

## Justice

### There's the Rub

*Conrado de Quiros*

I SYMPATHIZE completely with Crispin Beltran's desire to see an indictment of the Marcoses alongside current efforts to recover the wealth they stole and compensate the people they tortured. But he is barking up the wrong tree when he accuses Etta Rosales of blindsiding that by including all victims of human rights rather than just those of martial law among those to be compensated. I cannot imagine Rosales, whom I know personally to have risked life and limb fighting martial law, indeed longer and more resolutely than most people who wear badges to proclaim it, wanting to do the Marcoses a favor by letting them off the hook so easily.

But I appreciate Beltran's desire to draw attention to the crimes of the Marcoses as a vital element in these initiatives. I said it before and I'll say it again and again: None of the current efforts to recover ill-gotten wealth means anything if the people we are trying to recover it from go away unpunished. Or if we simply tell them, "Sorry, *p're*, but we are taking back what belongs to us, better luck next time." At the very least, that isn't going to dissuade future public officials from pillaging this country, having only to fear parting with part of the loot upon discovery.

Not quite incidentally, that was ingrained in Spanish rule on these islands in the past, a flaw in governance we seem to have embraced enthusiastically. It was understood then that governor generals would loot the country, so the auditing process that took place before they shipped back to Spain was essentially an exercise in distributing spoils. The governor generals gave up part of their take to the auditors in bribes, while leaving themselves enough to live comfortably on in the home country. None of them was punished for corruption. The whole review of his conduct was reduced to negotiation.

Without the prosecution of the crooks, today's campaign to recover ill-gotten wealth would amount to nothing more than that. It's already beginning to look so, the torture victims themselves being "bribed" with P8 billion to stop shouting their heads off about the welts they carry on their bodies and the scars they carry in their minds. Of course, the torture victims deserve to be restituted, preferably with cash—I'd be the first to argue for that. But it leaves a bad taste in the mouth that the whole process is taking on the aspect of dollars and cents, or indeed of negotiation, and little else. I am glad Beltran has gone out to remind the world there is something more at stake. Much, much more.

Quite simply, money was the least of the things the Marcoses stole. They stole as well the lives of those they murdered, many of them in the flush of life, and the happiness of those the dead left behind. They stole as well the future of those they tortured, many of them in mind quite apart from their bodies. (And they have the gall to complain of persecution!). They stole as well the freedom of this country, an imperfect freedom doubtless, the one that thrived before martial law, but one infinitely preferable to the bayonets of martial law. They stole as well the country's memory, substituting for history a mythical version of the past that had Marcos as the apotheosis of this country's march to progress. They stole as well the country's future.

None of that is recovered by the Marcoses being made to part with $682 million. It is not merely that $682 million is an infinitesimal part of the money they stole, it is that it is an infinitesimal part of the true wealth of the country they stole. The only way that wealth may be recovered is to prosecute the Marcoses—and their cronies, chief of them Danding Cojuangco and Lucio Tan. That is the only way the kin of the dead and the torture victims can get back what they lost, through the reconstructive power of justice. That is the only way this country can get back what it lost, through the jolt of collective recollection. That is the only way this country may seize back its future, by recovering its moral anchor.

On the other hand, I can appreciate too the logic of including the other human rights victims among those to be indemnified. It is not merely that the recovered money is the people's money, and everyone who was oppressed in defense of freedom during and after martial law has a natural claim to it. It is also that the same logic of prosecuting criminals applies not just to the Marcoses but to those who followed after them who are guilty of pillage and oppression as well.

Beltran's and Rosales' position are not opposed. Including the other human rights victims doesn't mean letting the Marcoses off the hook, it means **not** letting the others who committed the same crimes off the hook. Justice is universal or it is not justice at all.

We do not have to look far to see the importance of that principle. The difficulty in prosecuting Erap from a moral viewpoint, if not the legal one, is that it reeks of exceptionalism. It is not only Erap who pillaged the country. Ferdinand and Imelda did too; Cory's *kamaganak* did too, Fidel Ramos did too. In fact, by sheer scale of pillage, Erap's take now looks penny-ante. The rake during the last three regimes that preceded it by itself is sufficient explanation for why this country is the laughingstock of Asia. The only difference being that the thievery in Erap's time was more brazen. The other presidents did not make it a point to sign checks in front of a woman (or man) to impress her (or him). But that doesn't make Erap a worse thief, only a more stupid one.

Including the other victims of human rights in fact is a statement. It doesn't say, "So much for Marcos, let's forget about him." It says, "It's not only Marcos, let's get the others too."

* * *

*Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph*

# Not looking good

## POLITICAL TIDBITS

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

THINGS don't look good for Supt. Reuben Galban, former head of the police Intelligence Group. Not only did he flunk the lie detector test on the Al-Ghozi escape, he was also seen in and out of his office, just across from the terrorist's cell, early that morning, with his car parked outside the compound. This has given rise to suspicions that he might have given the terrorists a lift to freedom.

That the name of former PNP Director General and now Sen. Panfilo Lacson is being dragged into the Al-Ghozi case is also not surprising. Galban's old *padrino*, Director Julius Yarcia, was PNP intelligence chief during Lacson's time, and the IG was headed by Lacson's trusted people, including Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, who remains at large today after being implicated in questionable activities during the 2001 Senate hearings.

* * *

**Officials of the Light Railway Transit Authority (LRTA) suspect that the smear campaign against Administrator Teddy Cruz can be traced to two developments. One was the termination of the maintenance contract for LRT-1 with a Belgian group called Transurb Technirail SA last May. The Belgian group got P28 million a month as maintenance fee over the past three years, but the LRTA decided after the contract expired to entrust the job to an all-Filipino team of engineers and crew, for a much cheaper cost of P10 million monthly. As it turned out, the all-Pinoy team is proving more efficient and glitch-free, despite the increase of light rail vehicles from the previous daily average of 56 to the current 61. The Pinoy team has saved the government P20 million since its takeover.**

* * *

It also appears that a former consultant of the Metro Manila Light Rail Transit Consultants (MMLRTC) named Roberto Gualberto, has a personal grudge against Teddy Cruz and his former bosses at the MMLRTC, and has accused them of graft and corruption in a number of cases. One involves the alleged questionable acquisition of a rail grinding machine costing P175 million. LRTA officials assert, however, that the machine had not been bought, and not a single centavo has been released in payment since the transaction still has to undergo several stringent steps before final approval.

In my many years in the newspaper game, I have noted that malcontents will always try to build a case against those in position, but if the latter keep everything aboveboard and transparent, the accusations cannot prosper. Cruz and other bureaucrats should keep this well in mind. In his case, what ultimately matters is that the riding public is served well by the LRTA, and that means keeping it not only efficient but corruption-free.

* * *

**The plight of secular priest Alberto "Toto" Villosillo, 32, was recently brought to my attention by Rosemarie Arcenas-Ong through Sister Teresa of the Carmelite Monastery in Gilmore. Father Toto of Milagros parish in Masbate needs financial assistance from kind souls. Afflicted with end-stage kidney disease that requires twice-weekly dialysis, he underwent a kidney transplant at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute last July 3, with his sister as the donor. So successful was the operation, performed by the NKI team led by Dr. Enrique Ona, that within minutes he was already expelling wastes sans a machine.**

* * *

The problem is that the costs have been enormous. Father Toto's operation and hospitalization alone cost almost P500,000, not to mention the expensive medicines to prevent organ rejection and maintain his health in the critical first six months of post operation, and continuing laboratory tests. Unfortunately, he has no health insurance. His superior, Masbate Bishop Joel Z. Baylon, had to borrow funds to pay half of the hospitalization expenses. He issued a promissory note for the other half.

Father Toto's brothers and sisters as well as some friends have been helping, but they have families of their own. Samples of two very expensive medicines to prevent organ rejection, Neoral and Celcept, were donated by Novartis Healthcare Philippines and Roche Pharmaceuticals, respectively, while Le Minh Phuong Dang, general manager of Danlex Research Labs, also donated samples of antibiotics.

But Father Toto and Bishop Baylon need help to pay for the borrowed money and the promissory note as well as for more medicines and laboratory expenses, which average P10,000 a week in the critical first six post-operation months. They are counting partly on support from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, but nothing's clear. I'd like to appeal to readers to send their help to Bishop Baylon at the Masbate Chancery, Tel. No. (056) 333-2202 or 333-4687, or Rosemarie Arcenas-Ong at 0916-5572375.

* * *

**I'd like to greet three special ladies who observed milestones recently. First is Anita Albano Carpio, widow of the late Col. Benjamin D. Carpio Sr., who turned 80 last month with a birthday party at the Camp Aguinaldo Officers' Club. She is the mother of my good friend Col. Benjie Carpio Jr., now chief of the PMA General Hospital in Fort del Pilar, Baguio City. Anita Carpio continues to teach piano and organ at SM City.**

**Second is Narita Manuel Gonzalez, widow of National Artist NVM Gonzalez, who celebrated her 85th birthday with a "Thanksgiving for the elderly and special friends" at Balay Chancellor in UP Diliman. So devoted to NVM during their 57 years together, Narita today has emerged from his shadow and is into group dynamics, writing and editing books and God knows what else.**

**Then there's Luz Alzona Zafra, who is known to the UP community as "Nanay Zafra." The widow of the late History Professor Emeritus Nicolas Zafra and surrogate mother to the legendary Fr. John P. Delaney, Nanay turned 102 last week. She remains in good physical and mental health and can still thread a needle.**

# Trials of garments workers

## AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

"*MAHIRAP matulog ang gutom* (The hungry have a hard time sleeping)," says Joel Buela, union president of A. Bylsons Co. Inc., a Las Piñas-based garments firm that unceremoniously closed shop last April.

Buela was referring to the controversy over another garments firm, Anvil, whose workers had accused management of overworking them to the point of plying them with drugs so they could stay awake and work with hardly a break for up to three days straight.

In the view of Buela and his co-workers, as well as the workers of another prematurely closed garment firm, Bicutan-based Karayom Garments Manufacturing Inc., the sleepless workers of Anvil are at least fortunate enough to still be holding jobs.

I spoke with two officers of the Karayom union: Nemia Casulla, president; and Tess Peralta, who together with more than 700 other workers at Karayom have been mounting a picket for seven months now after the management, without informing them and filing an application for temporary closure on the same day, padlocked their premises last Jan. 6.

Karayom management cited "lack of orders" for 2003 in their application for temporary closure, but the workers find this hard to believe, saying that before the closure, the company was producing and shipping out 500 dozen garments daily, solely for export, and carrying such prestigious brands as Levi's, Gap and The Children's Place.

Management's unilateral and sudden decision, says Casulla, was particularly painful because for the past 27 years, "*maganda naman ang takbo ng aming trabaho* (our work was proceeding well)." Fully 95 percent of Karayom workers are women, and the overwhelming majority belongs to the local union Samahan ng Manggagawa sa Karayom Garments, represented by the National Federation of Labor (NFL). The longest-serving employee has been with the company for 27 years, while the newest workers, apart from the temporary hires, were hired three years ago. Most of the workers have been employed for about 15 years.

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ISSUES being raised by the Karayom union are: payment of 1.5 weeks unpaid salary for December 2002, payment of 60 percent of their 13th month pay; payment of 2002 unpaid vacation and sick leaves convertible to cash as stated in the CBA, and unremitted SSS. Pag-IBIG and PhilHealth contributions for employees.

For seven months now, say Casulla and Peralta, they have had to subsist on the charity of family and friends. While they could have borrowed from the SSS to tide them over, they cannot avail themselves of loans because, as SSS employees told them, the company had at least 24 months' arrears.

Thus, while the union has filed charges of illegal closure and unpaid salaries and benefits with the labor department, it has also filed criminal and administrative charges against the owner, Turkish national Yusuf Suveyky, who is married to a Filipina, for alleged nonremittance of SSS premiums.

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WHILE A. Bylsons and Sons is much smaller than Karayom, with 95 workers in its employ, the workers, represented by the union ABELU-NFL, have also raised much the same issues as the Karayom workers.

One common issue is a suspected ploy by the owners of both firms of opening what are commonly known as "runaway shops" in other locales, a tactic resorted to by troubled companies who wish to continue their businesses while avoiding their expensive but legal obligations to the workers of the shuttered firms.

Those observing and studying the troubled garments industry say the situation faced by the workers of Karayom and Bylsons is symptomatic of the rest of the industry. While they recognize that the industry is in dire straits, says Casulla, everyone in it should be asked to do their part, "*huwag naman* workers *lang ang mag-sakripisyo* (it shouldn't be just the workers who are sacrificing)."

More on this issue tomorrow.

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HERE'S an invitation to all readers to join what's being called the "Filipino People's Victory Celebration" tomorrow, July 25.

"In nine days since Saturday, July 12, till Monday July 21, the country was blessed with five great (pieces of) news," goes a press release.

"First, the Sandiganbayan's decision forfeiting in favor of the government the multibillion-peso coco levy funds in UCPB…Second, the Supreme Court decision declaring as ill-gotten the Marcos family's Swiss bank accounts…Third, the Senate committee's decision favoring elections of constitutional convention delegates in May 2004. Fourth, the President's decision calling for a ceasefire and the resumption of peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Finally, the Department of Finance's prosecution for graft and corruption of four top officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs.

"These landmark and fundamental decisions have the potential to change the course of Philippine history! All five decisions are about social justice and about giving hope to the country especially the poor majority…"

For these reasons, the alliance of reform-oriented NGOs and groups, known collectively as "Kilusang 12:30" or "K12:30" has organized the victory celebration tomorrow that kicks off with a Thanksgiving Mass at 3 p.m. at the Edsa Shrine to be officiated by Bishop Socrates Villegas. This will be followed by a march-rally at 4:30 p.m. to the San Miguel Corp. building in Ortigas. Then, at 7 p.m. there will be "Free Concert" at La Salle Greenhills to be hosted by Edu Manzano and participated in by big stars and bands like Joey Ayala, Noel Cabangon, Sugar Free and many more.

As the organizers proclaim: "Justice long delayed…but when it comes…it's sweet…and it pours!" There is hope for this country, after all.

# The romance of Magno Rubio

## HUMAN FACE

*Ma. Ceres P. Doyo*

*"MAGNO Rubio Filipino boy…Magno Rubio four feet six inches tall…Magno Rubio with a head of a coconut ball…Magno Rubio…"*

If you got the pages of Carlos Bulosan's classic "America is in the Heart" all wet with your tears while reading it, then you should catch "The Romance of Magno Rubio," which is showing till July 27 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

I am no theater critic; I just know when I like this one and not that one. You know, like how one feels after watching a great movie. "Magno Rubio" is not just a good play, it is a great one. Some plays make you fidget and say, when is this going to end? Not "Magno Rubio." It will do something to your heart. It is fast, crisp, hilarious, heartbreaking.

Based on a short story by Bulosan, himself a migrant worker who toiled in the canneries and fields in the 1930s before he became a great writer and activist, the award-winning play was written by Lonnie Carter (with Tagalog text by Ralph Peña) and directed by Loy Arcenas. It is presented by the Ma-Yi Theater Company of New York and the CCP as part of Sangandaan 2003, a cultural commemoration of a century of Philippine-American relations. Ma-Yi is dedicated to developing new performances that essay the Asian-American experience.

The play is set in a bunkhouse for migrant Filipino farm workers in Depression-era California. Watching it at the deliberately cramped 200-seater Tanghalang Huseng Batute of the CCP makes you an involved eavesdropper indeed. You can almost smell the breath and body odor of these hapless workers in search of the dream in "the land of the brave and the home of the free."

Magno Rubio is a foolish dreamer, loved and taunted by his fellow workers. He is their little mascot whose mooning and swooning fill their lonely nights. Nick, the bunkhouse intellectual, narrates and strings together the events of several years during which Magno Rubio courts an Arkansas woman he got to know through a lonely hearts magazine. Her name is Clarabelle. And the no-read-no-write Magno Rubio gets to know her only through letters (read and written for him, of course).

She sends letters; he sends her money, jewelry. She sends a picture and a lock of her hair; he sends her his undying love and hard-earned cash. His bunkmates taunt and harass him to make him come to his senses, but Magno Rubio is in love, in love with love. In the decrepit, smelly bunkhouse, he has found happiness in letters.

Is this his doom or redemption? Has Magno Rubio indeed found true love? How define happiness? How measure love?

I love that scene where Magno Rubio kisses the moving, talking shadow on the wall, that of Clarabelle. It reminds me of photographs of aging and penniless Fil-Am war veterans in the United States sent to me a few years ago by a noted photographer-friend. Several photos (shot with the veterans' knowledge) showed them during intimate moments with blond prostitutes.

"The Romance of Magno Rubio" develops not just in Magno Rubio's small mind and bursting heart and in the confining world of homesick Pinoys. Its stage is the big oppressive world of racism and cheap labor. The play's era may be the American Depression, but the Magno Rubios are for all time as long as the world economic order stays the same.

Some years ago I got to see the exhibit of the Depression-era photographs of the renowned Dorothea Lange at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. One of the plates made me stop. It had the caption, "Filipinos cutting lettuce, Salinas Valley, California, June 1935." The black-and-white photograph showed workers in an inverted U position. It was more powerful than the painting that inspired Edwin Markham to write the poem "The Man with the Hoe."

I ended up buying the expensive Lange book with the immortal black-and-white classics. Ansel Adams was to landscape what Dorothea Lange was to the human condition.

I mention this because after watching "The Romance of Magno Rubio," I pulled out Lange's book to gaze at the photograph of the Filipino workers circa 1935. Here was the world of Magno Rubio, I thought, the lettuce field of his broken dreams.

I also went over Bulosan's "Selected Works and Letters" edited by Epifanio San Juan and Ninotchka Rosca and "If You Want to Know What We Are: A Carlos Bulosan Reader" the cover of which shows Bulosan with a group of Filipino workers of that time, that bygone era that continues to haunt us. Bulosan gave a face to the class struggle.

San Juan wrote: "Today, Bulosan's writings serve as militant witness to the protracted struggle of Filipinos on both sides of the Pacific to liberate themselves. They embody the truth of national and class oppression inflicted upon Filipinos and other nationalities in the United States. They also embody the truth of the twists and turns of the Filipino's struggle against a profit-dominated system."

Today, it is no longer the canneries and lettuce fields of America. It is the oil tankers in the ocean, the hospitals, the homes and hospices, the construction sites, the restaurants and hotels. All over the world. The Filipino as global worker.

How many Magno Rubios have been duped, not by a Clarabelle, but by sweet-talking labor recruiters? How many women from rural villages, not so unlike Bulosan's Pangasinan, have been lured into brothels abroad or tormented by cruel employers?

The stories of migrant workers are stuff for literature, theater, film. I have listened to so many and have been privileged to write them as journalism feature stories (history, literature in a hurry?). It is a privilege that brings pain.

* * *

*Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph*

# Sponge

## YOUNG BLOOD

*Alvin B. Curada*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.*

I HAVE been living in this world for a quarter of a century already. Young though I am, I can already sense senescence creeping into my heart and my soul. The daily struggle to find my rightful place under the sun is perhaps what is causing it.

Looking for a job is like going to a rehabilitation center. Two things can happen: Either the applicant will go crazy or the human resources manager will lose his sanity.

I am glad I didn't have to go through the process. Three years ago, luck was on my side before I got lost in the bewildering maze of job openings in the classified ads section of our newspapers.

Growing up in the countryside, where agriculture is the main source of people's income, it has always been my ambition to contribute something significant to the alleviation of the economic status and social condition of our resource-poor farmers. This aspiration may sound hypocritical to some people but this is what I really want to do. Those who produce the food to feed our people should be accorded utmost respect and given their just reward.

Armed with knowledge on agricultural processing, irrigation and drainage, soil and water conservation, farm mechanization, rheology of materials and advanced thermodynamics, I felt then (like I still do now) that I was ready to conquer the world. After some immersion in Isabela, South Cotabato and Bukidnon, I realized that the roots of the problems of farmers were far more complex than any differential and integral calculus equations we had to solve in college. I wanted to make a difference in their lives, but their problems were just too intricate for an unsullied soul to handle.

Up to this day my vision remains clear: to make our farmers happy. Various government agencies and non-government organizations are working hard to improve their lot. The problem has already infiltrated the inner consciousness of the nation. The solution involves multi-faceted strategies and programs that should be carried out to the end.

I want to play an active role in that undertaking and thus fill the emptiness at the core of my being whenever I see my people in the countryside.

Life is getting harsher for these poor souls, who face nature's forces bravely to provide food for the rest of us. It is tragic that even before the farmers could understand the simple community market system, world trade liberalization is being introduced to them without first laying out effective market safety nets to protect their welfare. This will only complicate the problem and drive the farmers deeper into poverty and create social instability.

Despite being away from my family, which has been my principal source of inspiration and joy, I am happy with what I have and where I am now. I am learning a lot from my current work, which is basically project development. I belong to a great team and I have made wonderful friends.

I am like a sponge, absorbing everything I hear and see. I hope that some time later, I will be able to force those bits of ideas out to form a solid solution to the problems of farmers in my community.

Too ambitious? Well, that's me! As Walt Disney once said, "It is always fun to do the impossible."

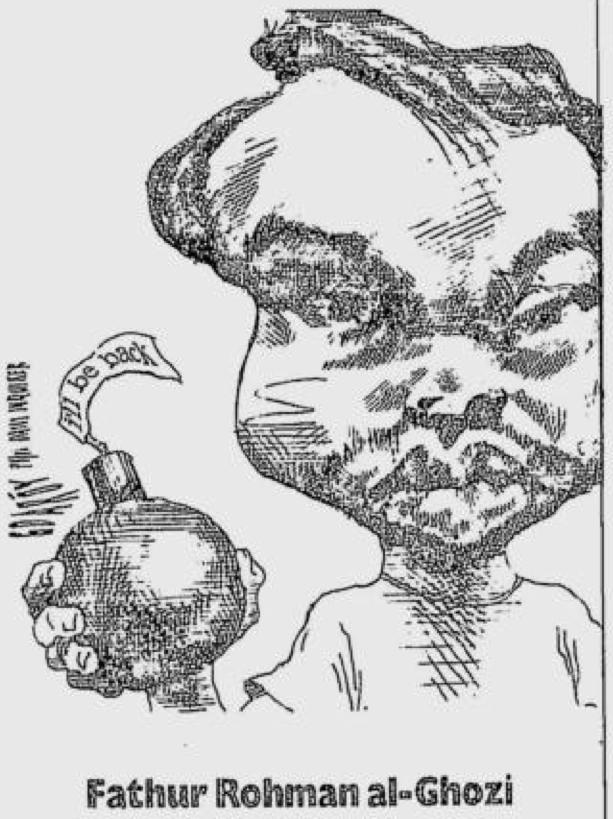
I once dreamed of earning a graduate degree before I turned 25. I felt that getting one, aside from increasing my chances of getting a monetarily rewarding job, would widen my perspectives and insights in dealing with the problems plaguing the agricultural sector. Now, I still have to write my research proposal and hope that a reputable graduate school in the United States will see some merit in my pursuing such a study and welcome me to their program.

Life is moving fast. I am always afraid to sleep early and wake up late. Spending so much time in slumber will just lead me to the realization that some of my dreams have already been lost.

My mom once told me that I was a dreamer. More recently, somebody else told me that I loved fantasy too much. After some soul-searching, I now realize that they were partly right. I can only hope that I will not be having nightmares during the rest of my life.

*Alvin B. Curada, 25, obtained his agricultural engineering degree from the University of the Philippines Los Baños. He now works for a government agricultural research agency.*

## IN THE NEWS



Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi

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# Not looking good

**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

THINGS don't look good for Supt. Reuben Galban, former head of the police Intelligence Group. Not only did he flunk the lie detector test on the Al-Ghozi escape, he was also seen in and out of his office, just across from the terrorist's cell, early that morning, with his car parked outside the compound. This has given rise to suspicions that he might have given the terrorists a lift to freedom.

That the name of former PNP Director General and now Sen. Panfilo Lacson is being dragged into the Al-Ghozi case is also not surprising. Galban's old *padrino*, Director Julius Yarcia, was PNP intelligence chief during Lacson's time, and the IG was headed by Lacson's trusted people, including Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, who remains at large today after being implicated in questionable activities during the 2001 Senate hearings.

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**Officials of the Light Railway Transit Authority (LRTA) suspect that the smear campaign against Administrator Teddy Cruz can be traced to two developments. One was the termination of the maintenance contract for LRT-1 with a Belgian group called Transurb Technirail SA last May. The Belgian group got P28 million a month as maintenance fee over the past three years, but the LRTA decided after the contract expired to entrust the job to an all-Filipino team of engineers and crew, for a much cheaper cost of P10 million monthly. As it turned out, the all-Pinoy team is proving more efficient and glitch-free, despite the increase of light rail vehicles from the previous daily average of 56 to the current 61. The Pinoy team has saved the government P20 million since its takeover.**

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It also appears that a former consultant of the Metro Manila Light Rail Transit Consultants (MMLRTC) named Roberto Gualberto, has a personal grudge against Teddy Cruz and his former bosses at the MMLRTC, and has accused them of graft and corruption in a number of cases. One involves the alleged questionable acquisition of a rail grinding machine costing P175 million. LRTA officials assert, however, that the machine had not been bought, and not a single centavo has been released in payment since the transaction still has to undergo several stringent steps before final approval.

In my many years in the newspaper game, I have noted that malcontents will always try to build a case against those in position, but if the latter keep everything aboveboard and transparent, the accusations cannot prosper. Cruz and other bureaucrats should keep this well in mind. In his case, what ultimately matters is that the riding public is served well by the LRTA, and that means keeping it not only efficient but corruption-free.

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**The plight of secular priest Alberto "Toto" Villosillo, 32, was recently brought to my attention by Rosemarie Arcenas-Ong through Sister Teresa of the Carmelite Monastery in Gilmore. Father Toto of Milagros parish in Masbate needs financial assistance from kind souls. Afflicted with end-stage kidney disease that requires twice-weekly dialysis, he underwent a kidney transplant at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute last July 3, with his sister as the donor. So successful was the operation, performed by the NKI team led by Dr. Enrique Ona, that within minutes he was already expelling wastes sans a machine.**

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The problem is that the costs have been enormous. Father Toto's operation and hospitalization alone cost almost P500,000, not to mention the expensive medicines to prevent organ rejection and maintain his health in the critical first six months of post operation, and continuing laboratory tests. Unfortunately, he has no health insurance. His superior, Masbate Bishop Joel Z. Baylon, had to borrow funds to pay half of the hospitalization expenses. He issued a promissory note for the other half.

Father Toto's brothers and sisters as well as some friends have been helping, but they have families of their own. Samples of two very expensive medicines to prevent organ rejection, Neoral and Celcept, were donated by Novartis Healthcare Philippines and Roche Pharmaceuticals, respectively, while Le Minh Phuong Dang, general manager of Danlex Research Labs, also donated samples of antibiotics.

But Father Toto and Bishop Baylon need help to pay for the borrowed money and the promissory note as well as for more medicines and laboratory expenses, which average P10,000 a week in the critical first six post-operation months. They are counting partly on support from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, but nothing's clear. I'd like to appeal to readers to send their help to Bishop Baylon at the Masbate Chancery, Tel. No. (056) 333-2202 or 333-4687, or Rosemarie Arcenas-Ong at 0916-5572375.

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* * *

*Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph*

# Sponge

**YOUNG BLOOD**

*Alvin B. Curada*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.*

I HAVE been living in this world for a quarter of a century already. Young though I am, I can already sense senescence creeping into my heart and my soul. The daily struggle to find my rightful place under the sun is perhaps what is causing it.

Looking for a job is like going to a rehabilitation center. Two things can happen: Either the applicant will go crazy or the human resources manager will lose his sanity.

I am glad I didn't have to go through the process. Three years ago, luck was on my side before I got lost in the bewildering maze of job openings in the classified ads section of our newspapers.

Growing up in the countryside, where agriculture is the main source of people's income, it has always been my ambition to contribute something significant to the alleviation of the economic status and social condition of our resource-poor farmers. This aspiration may sound hypocritical to some people but this is what I really want to do. Those who produce the food to feed our people should be accorded utmost respect and given their just reward.

Armed with knowledge on agricultural processing, irrigation and drainage, soil and water conservation, farm mechanization, rheology of materials and advanced thermodynamics, I felt then (like I still do now) that I was ready to conquer the world. After some immersion in Isabela, South Cotabato and Bukidnon, I realized that the roots of the problems of farmers were far more complex than any differential and integral calculus equations we had to solve in college. I wanted to make a difference in their lives, but their problems were just too intricate for an unsullied soul to handle.

Up to this day my vision remains clear: to make our farmers happy. Various government agencies and non-government organizations are working hard to improve their lot. The problem has already infiltrated the inner consciousness of the nation. The solution involves multi-faceted strategies and programs that should be carried out to the end.

I want to play an active role in that undertaking and thus fill the emptiness at the core of my being whenever I see my people in the countryside.

Life is getting harsher for these poor souls, who face nature's forces bravely to provide food for the rest of us. It is tragic that even before the farmers could understand the simple community market system, world trade liberalization is being introduced to them without first laying out effective market safety nets to protect their welfare. This will only complicate the problem and drive the farmers deeper into poverty and create social instability.

Despite being away from my family, which has been my principal source of inspiration and joy, I am happy with what I have and where I am now. I am learning a lot from my current work, which is basically project development. I belong to a great team and I have made wonderful friends.

I am like a sponge, absorbing everything I hear and see. I hope that some time later, I will be able to force those bits of ideas out to form a solid solution to the problems of farmers in my community.

Too ambitious? Well, that's me! As Walt Disney once said, "It is always fun to do the impossible."

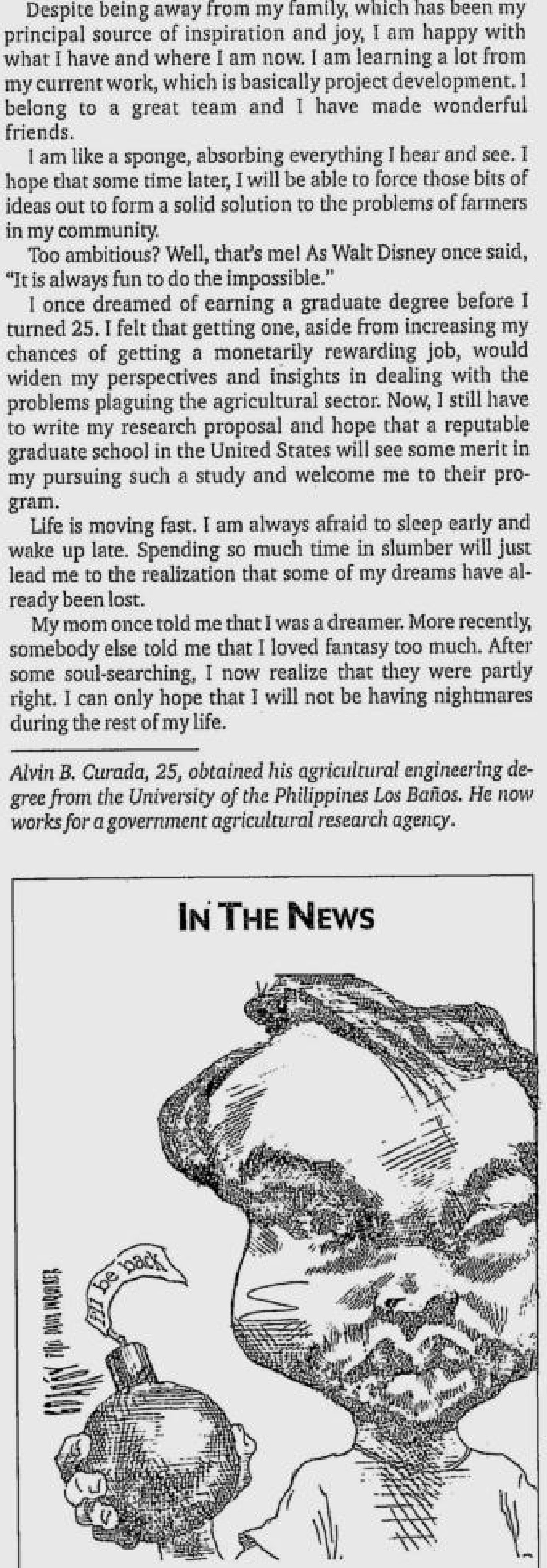
I once dreamed of earning a graduate degree before I turned 25. I felt that getting one, aside from increasing my chances of getting a monetarily rewarding job, would widen my perspectives and insights in dealing with the problems plaguing the agricultural sector. Now, I still have to write my research proposal and hope that a reputable graduate school in the United States will see some merit in my pursuing such a study and welcome me to their program.

Life is moving fast. I am always afraid to sleep early and wake up late. Spending so much time in slumber will just lead me to the realization that some of my dreams have already been lost.

My mom once told me that I was a dreamer. More recently, somebody else told me that I loved fantasy too much. After some soul-searching, I now realize that they were partly right. I can only hope that I will not be having nightmares during the rest of my life.

*Alvin B. Curada, 25, obtained his agricultural engineering degree from the University of the Philippines Los Baños. He now works for a government agricultural research agency.*

**IN THE NEWS**



Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi

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*Michael L. Tan*

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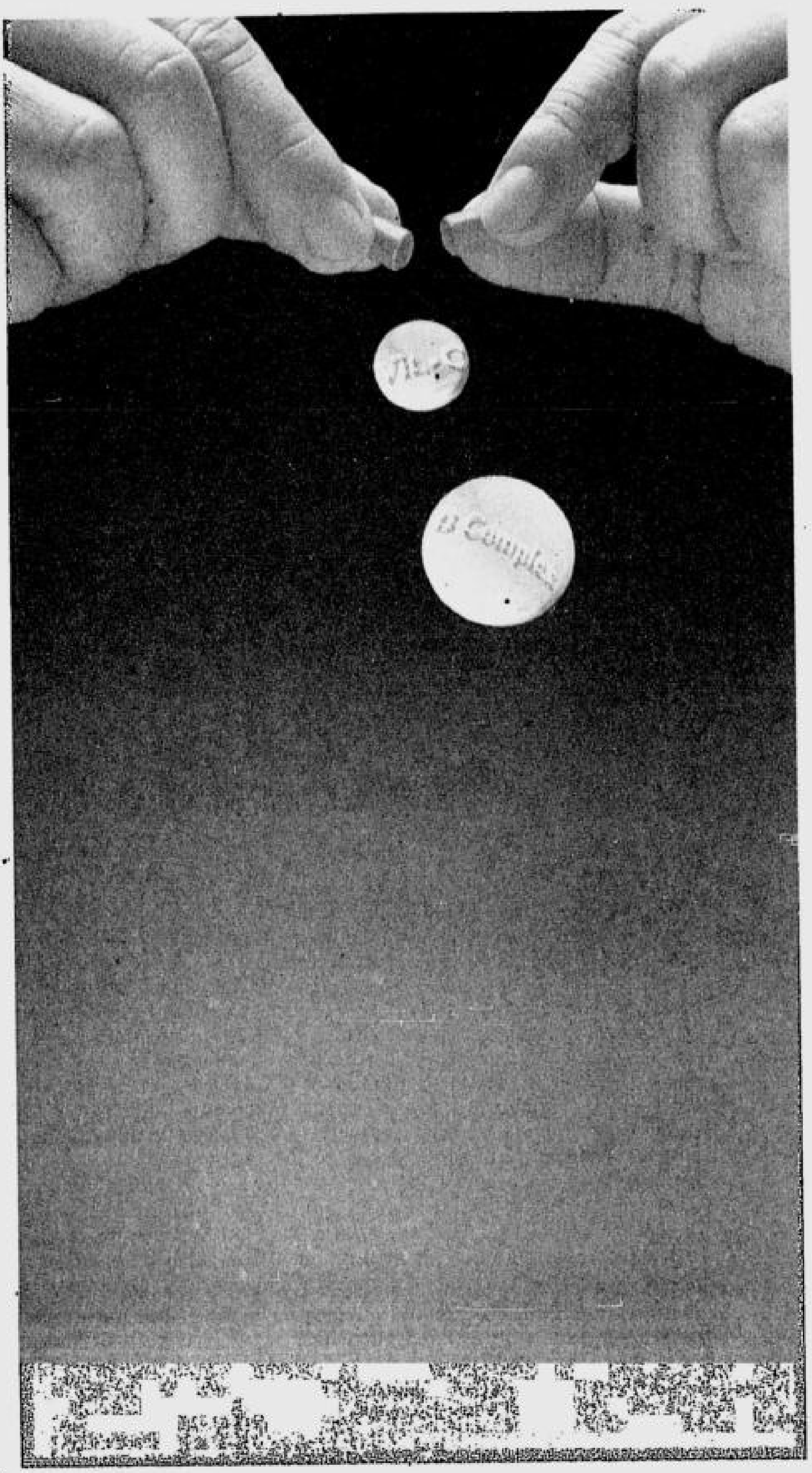

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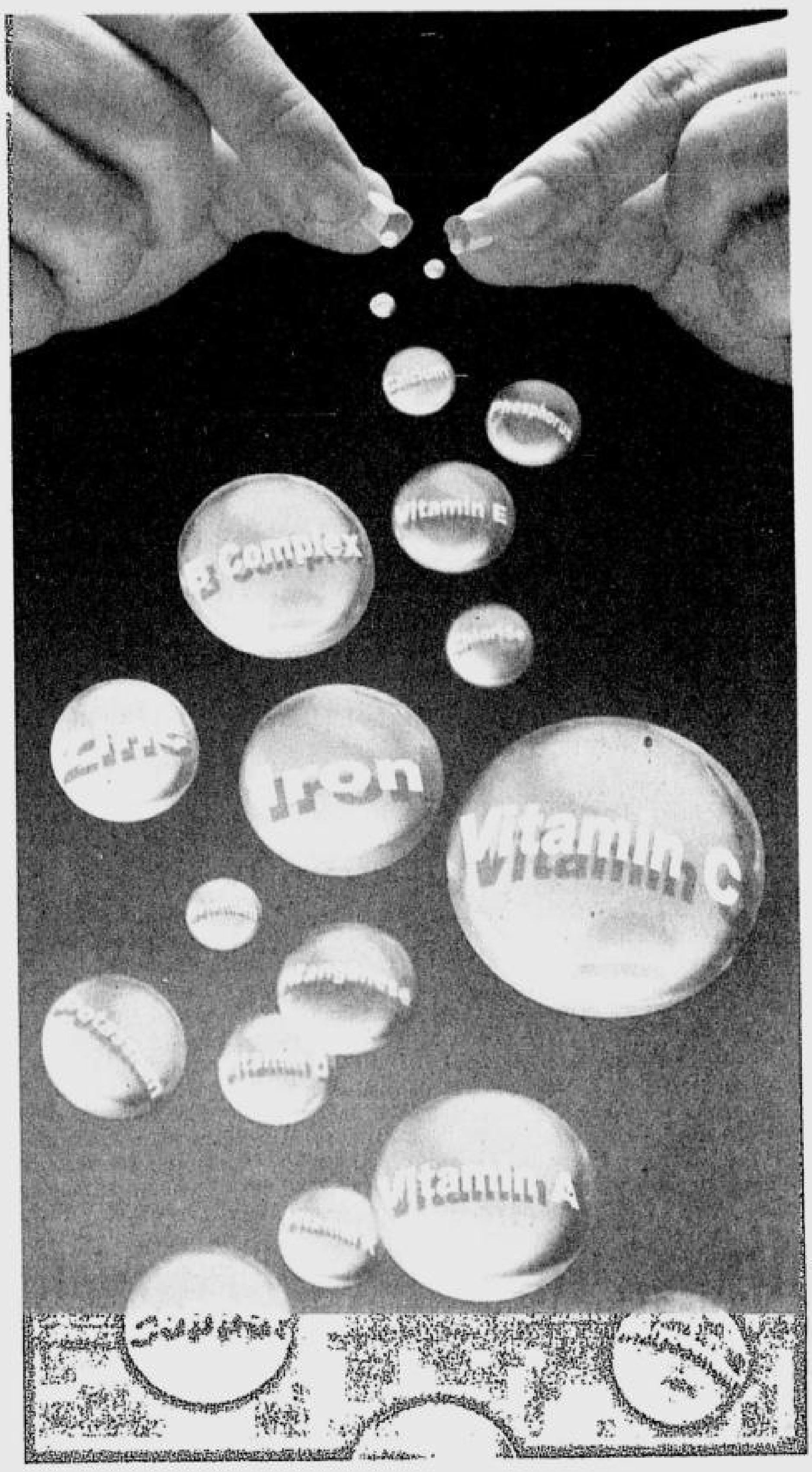

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# The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

# Top Bush official apologizes for Iraq intelligence fiasco

**WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush's deputy national security adviser became the second US official to apologize for allowing a tainted intelligence report on Iraq's nuclear ambitions to find its way into a major speech by Bush before Congress in January.**

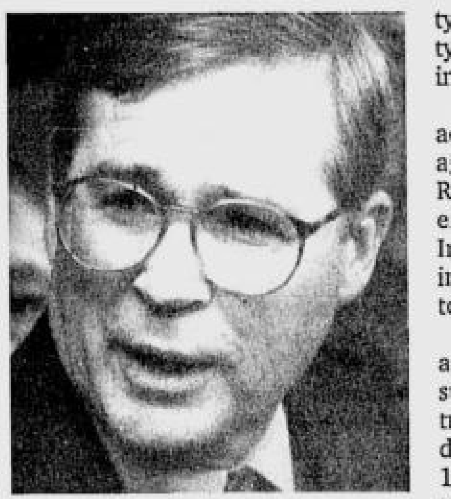
Stephen Hadley, in a rare on-the-record session with reporters, said that he had received two memos from the CIA and a phone call from agency Director George Tenet last October raising objections to an allegation that Iraq was seeking to buy uranium ore from Africa to use in building nuclear weapons.

As a result, Hadley said the offending passage was excised from a speech on Iraq the president gave in Cincinnati on Oct. 7. But Hadley suggested that details from the memos and phone call had slipped from his attention as officials were putting together Bush's State of the Union address, given before a joint session of Congress in January.

"The high standards the president set were not met," Hadley said. He said he apologized to the president on Monday.

Tenet previously issued a statement saying that he should have raised objections to the Iraq-Africa-uranium sentence when the CIA reviewed an advance copy of the president's speech.

Hadley is the top aide to National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice.



HADLEY

The controversial passage citing a British intelligence report "should have been taken out of the State of the Union," Hadley said. He said he was taking responsibility on behalf of the White House staff just as Tenet had for the CIA.

"There were a number of people who could have raised a hand" to have the passage removed from the draft of Bush's Jan. 28 address, Hadley said. "And no one raised a hand."

"The process failed," said White House Communications Director Dan Bartlett.

Still, Bartlett said that Bush, while perturbed by the developments, "has full confidence in his national security adviser, his deputy national security adviser and the director of central intelligence."

Hadley's statement came as the administration went into full damage-control mode, reaching out to its Republican allies in Congress in an effort to counter criticism of Bush's Iraq policy and his use of discredited intelligence to advance the case for toppling Saddam Hussein.

With Bush's job approval ratings among Americans slipping and US casualties in Iraq climbing, US administration officials sought to move the debate away from the flap over Bush's 16-word assertion that Iraq had been trying to buy uranium in Africa.

The Bush administration presented Hadley's apology on a day when public attention on Iraq was focused on the killing of Saddam's sons Uday and Qusay.

Hadley expressed his regret to Bush in a private session on Monday, offering what amounted to his resignation. Bush did not accept it, aides said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, Democrats used the development to step up their criticism of the president. "First they blamed the Brits. Then CIA Director George Tenet walked the plank. Now the White House is dragging (Hadley) forward to take the fall for the president's bogus claim," said Tony Welch, a spokesperson for the Democratic National Committee. *AP*

# 2 US soldiers killed in Iraq attacks

MOSUL, Iraq—Two US soldiers were killed and at least eight others were wounded on Wednesday in the first fatal attacks on US-led forces since they killed Saddam Hussein's two sons in a gunbattle in northern Iraq.

One US soldier was killed and six wounded when their vehicle hit an explosive device in the town of Mosul in northern Iraq, where Saddam's sons Uday and Qusay were killed a day earlier, a US military spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said the vehicle hit a mine or home-made explosive device.

In a separate attack, one US soldier was killed and two others wounded near the restive town of Ramadi west of Baghdad when their convoy was attacked with an improvised explosive, a US military spokesperson said.

The US spokesperson said the soldiers were from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Ramadi is in the "Sunni triangle" to the north and west of Baghdad where many of the guerrilla attacks on US troops have been concentrated.

The deaths brought to 41 the number of American soldiers killed in Iraq since US President George W. Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of ground forces in Iraq, said on Tuesday the killings of Uday, 39, and Qusay, 37, would deal a blow to guerrillas who have staged the attacks and ambushes on US forces in Iraq.

But Paul Bremer, the US administrator of Iraq, said there was a risk of revenge attacks by Saddam loyalists. *Reuters*

## *Uday Hussein headed propaganda, tortured unsuccessful athletes*

BAGHDAD—Uday Hussein, the murderous and erratic oldest son of Saddam Hussein, controlled propaganda in Iraq and allegedly oversaw the torture of athletes who failed to perform.

The 39-year-old had a US$15 million reward on his head as No. 3 on the US-led coalition's list of 55 most-wanted men from the ousted Iraqi regime—only Saddam and younger brother Qusai ranked higher. The three also were on a US list of former leaders who could be tried for war crimes.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of the US-led coalition troops in Iraq, said Uday and Qusay were killed Tuesday during a gunbattle with American soldiers in northern Iraq.

As head of the paramilitary Fedayeen Saddam paramilitary unit, Uday helped his father eliminate opponents and exert iron-fisted control over Iraq's 25 million people. The eldest of Saddam's five children, Uday was elected to parliament in 1999 with a reported 99 percent of the vote, but he rarely attended parliament sessions.

Iraqi exiles say Uday murdered at will and tortured with zeal, and routinely ordered his guards to snatch young women off the street so he could rape them. The London-based human rights group Indict said Uday ordered prisoners to be dropped into acid baths as punishment.

The Caligula-like Uday seemed proud of his reputation and called himself Abu Sarhan, an Arabic term for "wolf."

But his tendency toward erratic brutality even exasperated Saddam, who temporarily banished Uday to Switzerland after the younger Hussein killed one of his father's favorite bodyguards in 1988.

The bodyguard, a young man named Kamel Gegeo, arranged trysts for the Iraqi president—notably with one woman who later became Saddam's second wife. Worried that his father's relationship with the woman could threaten his own position as heir, Uday beat Gegeo to death with a club in full view of guests at a high-society party, according to some reports. Other reports said Uday killed Gegeo with an electric carving knife.

Uday had once been a strong candidate to succeed his father, but he was badly injured in 1996 in an assassination attempt by gunmen who opened fire as he drove his red Porsche through Baghdad. *AP*

## Qusay Hussein ran Saddam's ruthless security apparatus

BAGHDAD—Qusay Hussein, Saddam Hussein's younger son, held wide-ranging powers over the nation's ruthless security apparatus that made him one of the most feared men in Iraq.

Qusay was No. 2 on the US-led coalition forces' list of the 55 most wanted men from the former Iraqi regime, behind only his father. He was also on a Bush administration list of regime members who could be tried for war crimes.

The two brothers, who each were sought with US$15 million rewards, died in a shootout with American soldiers Tuesday in northern Iraq, said Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of coalition troops in Iraq.

Quiet, handsome and every bit as brutal as Saddam, the 37-year-old Qusay headed Iraq's intelligence and security services, his father's personal security force and the Republican Guard, an elite force of 80,000 soldiers responsible for defending Baghdad.

He stayed out of the public eye and led a substantially more subdued private life than his older brother Uday, who collected luxury cars by the hundreds and had a habit of ordering his guards to snatch young women off the street in order to rape them. Iraqis nicknamed Qusay "The Snake" for his bloodthirsty but low-profile manner.

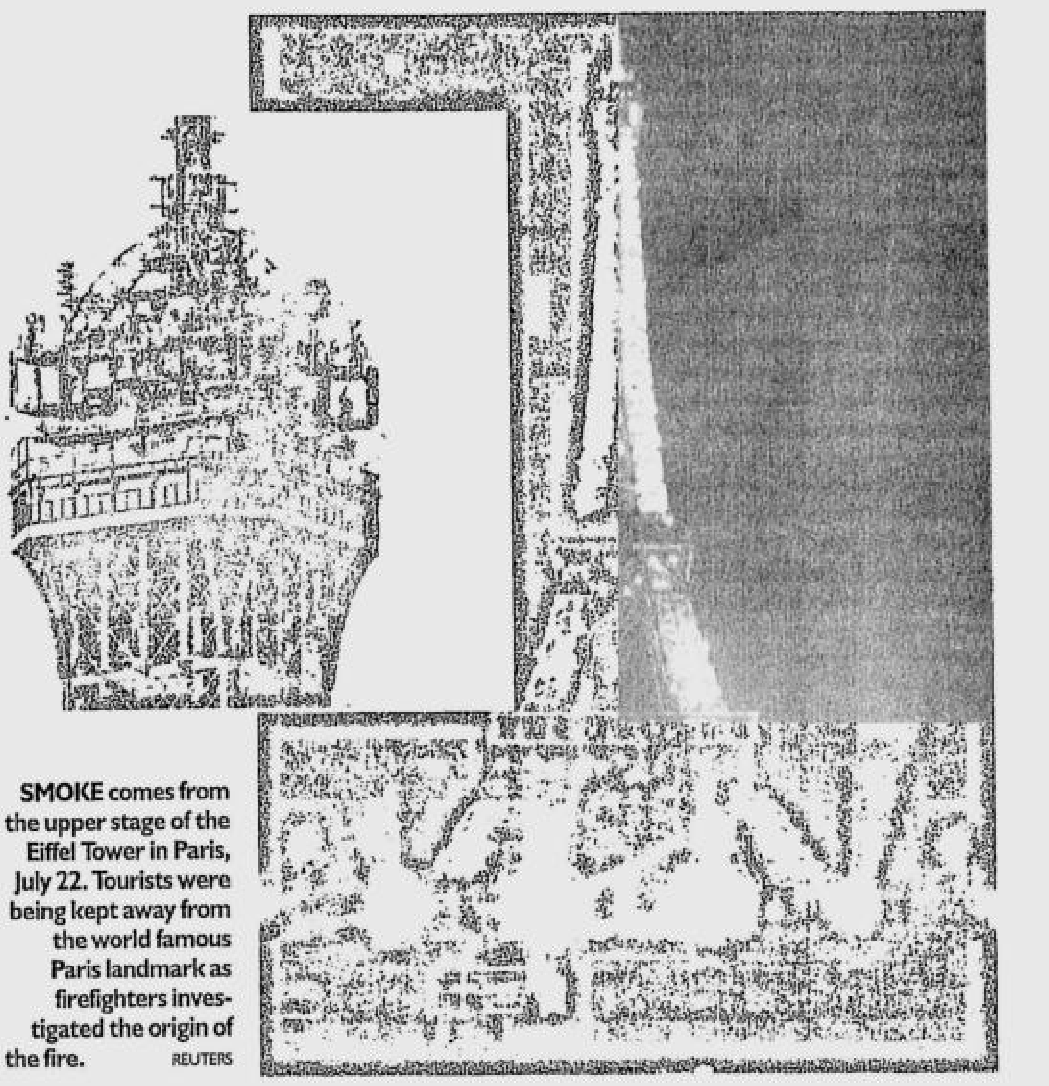
Qusay was far more trusted by his father and appeared to be his heir before the regime crumbled. In televised meetings with top security and military men, Qusay was seated next to his father, wearing well-tailored suits and dutifully noting his father's every word.

An exiled dissident said that only Qusay and Saddam's private secretary, Abid Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti, who was captured in June, were kept informed of Saddam's whereabouts. Uday was thought to be too reckless to be trusted with such information.

Experts do not believe Qusay played a significant role in the Gulf War of 1991. But he was a leading figure of terror in the conflict's aftermath, using mass executions and torture to crush the Shiite Muslim uprising after that war.

Qusay also helped engineer the destruction of the southern marshes in the 1990s, an action aimed at Shiite "Marsh Arabs" living there.

The marshes, roughly 8,192 sq. km, had provided the necessities of life for tens of thousands of marsh dwellers for at least 1,000 years. The area was destroyed through a large-scale water diversion project intended to remove the ability of insurgents to hide there. *AP*



**SMOKE comes from the upper stage of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, July 22. Tourists were being kept away from the world famous Paris landmark as firefighters investigated the origin of the fire.** REUTERS

# Brief fire hits Eiffel Tower

PARIS—A fire was put out shortly after it erupted at the top of the landmark Eiffel Tower on Tuesday, causing no injuries and forcing the evacuation of 3,000 people from the popular tourist destination.

Firefighters extinguished what they called a small blaze caused by an apparent short circuit in a telecommunications room on the third story of the tower, a floor accessible to tourists. Officials had earlier said the entire area where the fire happened was off-limits to visitors.

At one point, black smoke could be seen pouring from the top of the 324-meter edifice, France's best-known and the world's most popular monument visited by some six million people a year, the vast majority of them foreign tourists.

The fire broke out at 7:20 p.m., and was brought under control about 40 minutes later, fire chief Christian Decolloredo said.

Some 3,000 tourists were evacuated—200 of them from the top floor—and the entire Eiffel Tower, normally open at this time of year until 1 a.m., was closed to the public until Wednesday.

Paris mayor Bertrand Delanoe, whose city hall operates the tourist attraction, hurried to the scene and called for an inquiry into security measures.

Some 100 firefighters and 20 vehicles were dispatched after the alarm was sounded.

Marla Endieveri, an American tourist from Houston, Texas who was at the top where a luxury restaurant is located, said she smelled smoke. *AFP*

# Osteoporosis linked to lack of estrogen-regulating protein

ALBANY, New York—British scientists experimenting with mice believe they may have found why post-menopausal women often suffer from osteoporosis.

The researchers discovered that mice lacking a key estrogen-regulating protein were unable to grow enough bone cells. The finding could lead to new therapies to treat osteoporosis in post-menopausal women.

Osteoporosis affects mostly women, limiting their mobility and leading to many fractures, sometimes with deadly consequences.

Bone cells grow and bone density is maintained according to a complex recipe of calcium, vitamin D, growth factors and hormones. As people age, their risk for the bone-thinning disease increases, especially as estrogen levels decline.

Researchers at the Royal Veterinary College in London studied female mice that were bred both with and without a protein called estrogen receptor alpha, or ER-alpha. The hormone estrogen circulates in the bloodstream and binds to certain cells via estrogen receptors, protein molecules that regulate the level of estrogen. In humans, varying amounts of the receptors are present in almost every cell in the body.

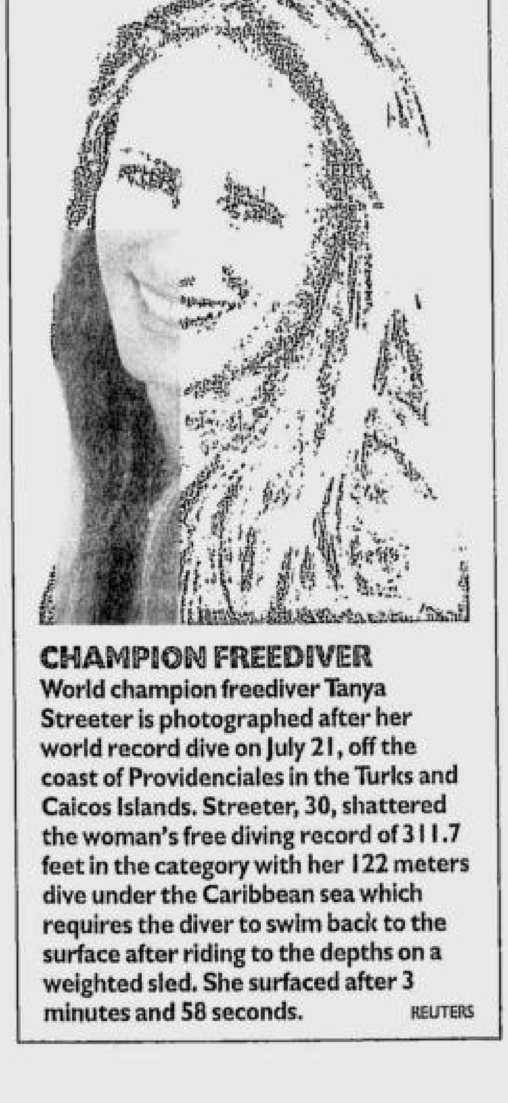
Researchers surgically implanted gauges in the shaft of the mice's front legs and measured their response to the strain exerted from bearing a load over two weeks. Normally, when a bone undergoes physical stress, the body forms new bone cells to offset the pressure.

Researchers discovered that mice with active ER-alpha receptors formed new bone-building cells three times more than mice without the receptors.

"It explains why estrogen withdrawal results in bone loss," said the study's lead author, Lance Lanyon. The number of estrogen receptors is reduced by lower estrogen levels and diminishes the ability of bone cells to adequately respond.

The study appears in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

Lanyon said there is no current osteoporosis therapy involving ER-alpha, but it offers a promising target for new trials for drugs that would stimulate ER-alpha receptors or replace their function in cells. *AP*



**CHAMPION FREEDIVER**

**World champion freediver Tanya Streeter is photographed after her world record dive on July 21, off the coast of Providenciales in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Streeter, 30, shattered the woman's free diving record of 311.7 feet in the category with her 122 meters dive under the Caribbean sea which requires the diver to swim back to the surface after riding to the depths on a weighted sled. She surfaced after 3 minutes and 58 seconds.** REUTERS

# Fighting ebbs in Monrovia

MONROVIA—Fighting ebbed in the Liberian capital Monrovia overnight Wednesday, as rebels refused to sign a west African brokered peace pact to end a ruinous four-year civil war, with up to 700 civilians reportedly killed in recent days.

Shelling abated in the city center and only stray fire was heard in the Mamba Point diplomatic area, where several shells had landed in the day.

One fell on a house near the US Embassy and the office of the British aid organization Merlin, causing two injuries and one death, according to witnesses.

Defense Minister Daniel Chea, meanwhile, said brutal battles in the last four to five days had pushed the civilian death toll "well above the 600 mark," adding that it could be as many as 700.

He said at least 60 civilians died Monday when mortars rained over Monrovia, where tens of thousands of people are living rough amid acute shortages of food, water and medicines.

The rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) on Tuesday rejected a draft of a peace agreement drawn up by west African mediators in the Ghanaian capital Accra, saying it was inadequate.

LURD and a second rebel group, the Movement for Democracy in Liberia, faulted the plan for failing to propose three vice presidencies in a power-sharing transitional government for the west African state. *AFP*

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## Palawan folk bar 38 Chinese from flight

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Nongovernment groups with Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes, Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon, board member Gerry Ortega, environmentalists, students and residents succeeded in barring 38 Chinese poachers from boarding an airplane bound for Metro Manila yesterday morning.

The poachers, escorted by two Chinese embassy officials and a Manila lawyer, had checked in at the Philippine Airlines flight scheduled to leave at 10:30 a.m. but protesters, unmindful of the presence of the police and the marines, refused to let them enter the pre-departure area.

Immigration officer Rowell Aballa said they had no reason to restrain the Chinese because there was already a release order from the court. RTC Branch 52 Judge Perfecto Pe ordered the release of the Chinese on July 22.

Aside from the judicial fine, the Bureau of Immigration imposed an administrative fine of P50,000 each as undocumented aliens. Commissioner Andrea Domingo earlier agreed to impose only P10,000 each so that they could leave the province.

An amount of P380,000 was paid to the immigration office but the protesters argued that there should be an official order from the BI in Manila before the Chinese are allowed to go.

The plane waited for an hour but left at 11:38 a.m. without the Chinese since it was already delayed for more than an hour.

The poachers were sentenced to 10 months of imprisonment after pleading guilty to a lesser crime of possession of noxious substances to poison fish last Thursday. They were originally charged with actual use of noxious substances that has a punishment of imprisonment from five to 10 years, while possession imposes a jail term of only six months to two years.

### Detention

They were in detention since September last year.

Warden Ramon Espina said he did not contest the release order because he might be charged with arbitrary detention. Espina had a strict order from Gov. Joel Reyes not to release the poachers without a verified release order from the court.

Espina said the provincial government spent more than P350,000 for the food of the Chinese since their detention. The amount is more than the fines initially paid by the Chinese.

Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon expressed disgust over the release.

"It is clear as day that, in so far as non-payment of judicially-imposed legal fines, these Chinese poachers were and are taking our laws for granted," he said in a speech delivered hours before the release.

He said the national government allows this to happen because of the pressure it exerted on the prosecution. Last year, 112 Chinese poachers were released without making them fully pay their fines.

"Nobody but nobody will respect us, respect our laws, respect our court decisions, if our national government does not show that respect, first and foremost," he said. *Jofelle Tesorio and Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

## P200-M cell card scam bared

By Maurice Malanes, *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

**BAGUIO CITY—She came at a time when frustrated investors of a previous cell card networking scheme wished to recoup their lost investments.**

By the time the investors found out that the owner of the new company, which was supposed to bail them out of the earlier scam, was another con person, it was too late. Their estimated P200 million in aggregate investments went down the drain.

Vowing to be the opposite of the first cell card networking company, the new cell card networking company's owner was able to woo more than 800 persons, many of them former investors of the first company.

She also improved the system of the previous company so clients wouldn't have to line up whenever claiming their cell cards, a daily problem with the other cell card company that closed down last February.

The improved system and promises of hefty returns lured investors from various sectors, many of them professionals, from as far as Benguet and Mt. Province.

When the owner of the now multi-million-peso cell card network company had become harder and harder to find starting June, investors found out that the sweet-talking owner had put one over them.

The owner was registered as Jayne Marquez, which, investors found out, was not her real name. Nicknamed Tweety and Mel, she is also known as Pamela Mayate, Pamela Quiambao and Pamela Marimla.

Investors were still at a loss, not knowing which of the names was real. Some said they last saw her on June 23 in Tarlac.

### Second scam

The scam was the second alleged cell card fraud reported in the city in five months. The first was Line-Card Unlimited, whose owner reported he was robbed of millions of pesos last February, a claim the police had doubted even if the owner's driver was killed during the supposed robbery.

The scheme works through networking. For every P1,500 an investor puts into the company and two recruits, each of whom must also invest P1,500 each, the investor is entitled to ten P300 worth of cellular phone cards in 10 weeks or a card each week for 10 weeks.

One, who maintains two "downlines," each of whom has also two recruits, is entitled to 48 cell cards a year. But since April, the company have changed the rules and reduced the cards to 38.

Since recruiting "downlines" is tedious, many investors placed their own names as their own "downlines" by investing their own money.

A housewife, for example, loaned from a micro-finance institution, a cooperative bank, a sister and friends, and invested more than P150,000 last February and March.

If all went well according to what the company promised, the housewife calculated that by June she would start receiving about P16,000 weekly or P64,800 monthly, which she is supposed to receive in six months.

So in six months, she expected to gross P388,800 or P238,800 in net profit. But at a time when her return of investments was supposed to start coming, the owner disappeared.

There are other sadder stories. Another housewife mortgaged her house and invested more than P1 million in the company. Still another invested her savings as an overseas worker in the scheme.

TONEE DESPOJO

**BLOOD COMPACT**
**Tagbilaran City Mayor Jose Torralba (left) and Gov. Erico Aumentado (far right) play Miguel Lopez de Legazpi and Datu Sikatuna, respectively, while actress Elizabeth Oropesa plays the wife of Sikatuna during the reenactment of Sandugo Festival 2003 last Sunday.**

## Voters' list-up being blocked in Maguindanao, says Comelec

COTABATO CITY—The Commission on Elections said some officials of Maguindanao are opposed to the holding of this week's general registration of voters as part of the poll body's computerization program.

Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, commissioner in charge for Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, said two representatives of Gov. Andal Ampatuan approached her asking for the suspension of the July 25-30 general registration of voters.

"I have to talk to the governor because we cannot suspend the general list-up," Tancangco said, adding that other provinces have already completed the process of cleansing the padded list of voters.

"The computerization is to their advantage, the politicians would no longer worry about ghost and flying voters," according to Tancangco.

On Saturday, Tancangco met with military and police officials to ensure the security of Comelec personnel.

The Comelec has scrapped the old voters' list in the five provinces of ARMM, considered by national politicians as vote-rich provinces. During the last elections, reports have it that national political candidates manipulated ARMM votes to swing in their favor.

"The computerization will pave the way for a credible, clean and honest elections," Tancangco said.

"This is good for the public, the voters, the candidates and our country," she stressed.

But Engr. Norie Unas, Maguindanao provincial administrator, said the governor was not opposed to the computerization and the cleansing of Maguindanao voters' list.

He admitted that Ampatuan sent representatives to Tancangco "to air a very pressing problem in relation to the general registration."

"He is not opposed," he stressed. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## Cops step up hunt for gang of motorcycle thieves

By Romy G. Amarado
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

DUMAGUETE CITY—Police have stepped up the manhunt for a group responsible for the series of robberies and thefts of motorcycles here.

Supt. Constantino Barot Jr., Dumaguete police chief, said the last robbery was on Sunday, when three armed men shot at three young motorists before they took their money and their motorcycle around 8:45 p.m. on South Bagacay Road, Barangay Bagacay in this city.

Barot identified the victims as Cristituto Mamhot, 19; Joseph Mamhot, 18; and Yvone Dediane, 16.

The three teenagers were on a motorcycle, when the suspects flagged them down. When they did not stop, one of the suspects shot at them with a .45 cal. pistol.

Cristituto was hit on the foot, while Dediane was wounded in the knee. Joseph was unscathed. The motorcycle skidded and the three fell on the ground.

The suspects immediately took from the Dedianes more than P100 in cash, boarded the victims' 110 Honda Wave motorcycle and then left.

Barot said the group was involved in at least four similar cases in the past few weeks.

Prior to last Sunday's incident, Barot said the suspects also took at gunpoint a motorcycle of a young motorist in Barangay Daro, this city.

## Court stops health secretary from sacking Ilocos hospital chief

SAN FERNANDO CITY—A regional trial court ruled against the enforcement of an order issued by Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit to relieve the acting chief of hospital of the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center here.

Judge Adolfo Alagar granted a writ of preliminary injunction in favor of Dr. Gilbert de Leon, acting chief of hospital of the ITRMC, saying Dayrit "committed a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or in excess of jurisdiction (sic)."

On June 6, Dayrit issued an order designating Dr. Eduardo Janairo, Ilocos health director, as officer in charge of the ITRMC replacing De Leon.

The order came weeks after 60 doctors and nurses from the ITRMC demanded De Leon's relief on grounds of graft and corruption and gross incompetence.

The complainants claimed that De Leon was involved in irregular purchases of medicines worth millions of pesos, using ITRMC purchase order forms allegedly for private use.

The Department of Health is still investigating the administrative complaint.

De Leon claimed, in his petition, that he had been denied due process, before he was ordered relieved. But DOH lawyers seeking to dismiss the petition argued that, as officer in charge, De Leon "might be dismissed at any time with or without cause."

They also claimed that during his one-year incumbency starting Feb. 4, 2002, he "did not acquire the qualifications for the position of chief of hospital."

Alagar, in his decision, said it was "the height of injustice for (Dayrit) to dismiss (De Leon) without cause or notice of hearing."

He said a document signed by De Leon on Jan 18, 2002 and accepted by Dayrit contained their "implied" agreement that De Leon shall be "deemed appointed as permanent chief of hospital."

Alagar said De Leon was qualified for the position, being a diplomate in anatomic and clinical pathology. *Gia Damaso-Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

## Group vows to stop ruin of archaeological site

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Historical Conservation Advocates (HCA), a group working for the preservation of the city's cultural and historical heritage, vowed to stop the city government from what it called the desecration of the pre-historic Huluga sites in Barangay Taguanao here.

The group said it would file a suit before the office of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Northern Mindanao.

The group has been accusing the city government of destroying the Huluga archaeological sites, where artifacts dating back to pre-historic times had been dug up in recent years, through the construction of the P636-million South Diversion Road and Cargo Bridge.

HCA said the city government violated the project's Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), after it failed to form an archeological reconnaissance team prior to the road construction. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## DoE allots P13M for area seen as peace zone

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Department of Energy is allocating some P13 million to energize and implement agro-forestry projects in Tamlang Valley, an erstwhile war zone.

The Negros Oriental provincial government is eyeing the area as a showcase of development.

The estimated 16,000-hectare valley is nestled at the hinterland areas of the towns of Sta. Catalina, Valencia, Sibulan and Siaton.

Of the amount, P4 million is intended to bring electricity to the valley. The remaining amount is for tree-planting and other related undertakings.

The provincial government has spent some P25 million for the opening and rehabilitation of roads going to the valley, indicating its seriousness in developing the area, which started five years ago. The project will be inaugurated next month.

Fr. Francis Duran, provincial cooperative executive director, said the provincial government has been making efforts to convince Malacañang to declare the area a peace zone. *Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

**INTERFAITH WORKSHOP**
**The British Council concluded the latest workshop in its program to tackle issues surrounding interfaith dialogue in the Philippines. Working with 40 mostly female Madaris teachers from Lanao del Sur, the workshop set out to improve the basic English communication skills of these teachers so that they can engage more closely with teaching colleagues in the mainstream education system, according to a photo release of the British Council.**

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INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

*Editor* **Jun Bandayrel**
*Bureau Chief* **Floreño G. Solmirano**

# Aeta folk fight for rivers of life

**AN AETA leader cannot help but watch in dismay the presence of earth-moving equipment headed for the Alitao River in Tayabas, Quezon.** PHOTOS BY DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

**By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.**
*Tayabas, Quezon*

THE plight of the Aeta community in Barangay Tongko on the slope of mystical Mt. Banahaw in Tayabas, Quezon, is no different from stories of exploitation and government apathy.

The people occupy a 10-hectare settlement established some 425 years ago, and regard their rivers, a source of food, as their "life and existence." But development seemed to have gradually destroyed their place.

Samson Pagkaliwangan, chieftain of the Tribal Leader's Council-Aeta Tayabas, explained that "no Aeta community would exist without any natural flowing river in their surroundings."

About 50 Aeta families, along with several Tagalog families, have long been residing in the area wedged by the Iyam and Potol rivers in the west and the Alitao River in the east.

The Aeta menfolk work as hired hands for rice and coconut farms, or as construction workers. The women help out by peddling medicinal herbs.

Whatever they earned used to be enough to sustain a decent life because food was practically free, recalled Rady Salvania, tribal council secretary. "God always made sure that the rivers provided something enough for all of us."

But times are different now, he lamented. "If you kill our rivers, it's like putting an end to our very own existence."

Jun Redor, a folklore researcher who has been helping in the tribe's struggles, depicted the rivers as the market and kitchen of the Aeta folk.

The indigenous people's participation in the evolution of Tayabas has been embodied in the municipal seal as a testament to their contribution in the history of the town.

Numerous historical accounts depict the Aeta as the early settlers of Tayabas, Redor said. According to the Internet website of Tayabas, the town was established in 1578 by Franciscan missionaries Fray Juan de Placencia and Fray Diego de Oropesa.

From 1779 to 1910, it was the capital of the province that was also called Tayabas. The province was later renamed Quezon.

## Non-stop quarry

Aeta leaders and officials of neighboring villages have assailed the continuous destruction of the Iyam and Domoit riverbeds through non-stop quarrying and rock-crushing operations of Rodriguez Aggregates Resources in a 20-hectare site in Barangay Silangang Domoit.

Illegal rock-and-sand extraction also occurs in the vicinity of Kanlurang Domoit and Potol villages.

The Aeta tribe considers the rivers not only their traditional fishing grounds but also as a sacred place.

"According to the elders, somewhere along the banks of the river lie our ancestors," Salvania said.

Thus before starting to fish, the Aeta folk go through a ritual invoking the help of their ancestors' spirits in "gathering God's resources."

"We pour wine into the ground as our offering," Salvania said.

Water flows from numerous sources in Banahaw into the rivers and out into the Tayabas Bay.

Pagkaliwangan said they had long been complaining about the disastrous effects of quarrying, "but all our complaints have fallen on deaf ears."

Last month, Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun reportedly exhorted her field officials to closely link up first with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) before issuing any license and permit or forging any agreement in ancestral domain areas.

But Pagkaliwangan lambasted the NCIP officials for allegedly working for the interest of quarry operators. "What had been taking place during past consultations was that the NCIP officials were the ones convincing us to abandon our opposition," he said.

Documents from the Mines and Geoscience Bureau show that the five-year industrial permit of Rodriguez Aggregates Resources expired on June 11 last year.

## Admission

Jojo Rodriguez, son of quarry operator Lavino Rodriguez Sr., admitted that their permit to operate had already expired but added that it was now being renewed. The application, he said, was being hindered by bureaucratic red tape. He blamed the required consultation aspect with all the stakeholders for the long renewal procedure.

Rodriguez urged the complainants to address their issues to the right parties, not through the media. "There is a legal process," he said.

They could even question the legality of the Aeta's settlement in the area, he said.

He claimed that the company no longer earned from its operations and was, in fact, deep in debt. He said the quarry operation nets 6,000-8,000 cubic meters annually.

Essie Verzo, chief of the Environmental Management Bureau-Quezon, said she would soon dispatch a team to assess if there were violations in the provisions of the company's environmental compliance certificate.

The Aeta leaders and officials sought the help of environmentalist lawyer Asis Perez, head of the Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog.

Perez said they would immediately investigate the status of the company.

"If they have no permit, they have no business to operate. And if they have any permit, they should abide with all the pertinent provisions of Ipra," he said. The Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (Ipra) or (Republic Act No. 8371) was signed into law by then President Fidel Ramos on Oct. 29, 1997.

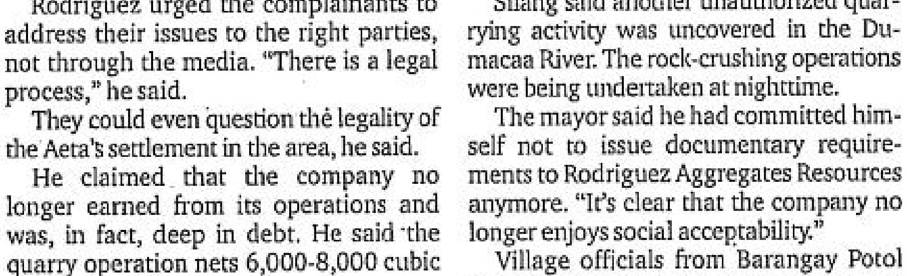
Tayabas Mayor Faustino Silang said they had already communicated with the DENR several times, asking the status of Rodriguez Aggregates Resources because of numerous complaints about the quarry operations. He did not receive any replies, he said in a television interview recently.

## No more banks

Silang said another unauthorized quarrying activity was uncovered in the Dumacaa River. The rock-crushing operations were being undertaken at nighttime.

The mayor said he had committed himself not to issue documentary requirements to Rodriguez Aggregates Resources anymore. "It's clear that the company no longer enjoys social acceptability."

Village officials from Barangay Potol also joined the Agta folk in denouncing the quarry operations.



**WHAT** was once a vibrant river teeming with aquatic life is now a sorry sight.

The officials feared that more coconut farmlands would be prone to further erosion and cave-ins, similar to what happened in Sariaya, another quarry town in the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon).

The drying rivers near the quarry site is a sorry sight, with no riverbank and huge boulders protruding from the destroyed beds.

Pagkaliwangan remembered that they once boasted even to their foreign visitors, of the rich marine life in the rivers of Iyam, Domoit and Alitao near their settlement area.

"But now, what's left is a pathetic panorama of damaged rivers due to human greed and disrespect for nature," he said.

"Other freshwater bounties that we used to enjoy have either disappeared or lessened as the quarry operations continues. There are no more jumping mudfish and catfish that used to be a refreshing sight to our visitors."

"There were lots of native eels, which command a good price among the Chinese in the poblacion, as well as *tilapia*, sweet tasty shrimps and *bakuli*," he said, shaking his head.

To make matters worse, the Alitao River, that snakes in the other side of the settlement area, has also been affected by stinking pollutants from several commercial swine projects in the upstream portions.

## Help

Salvania thanked several nongovernment groups that have been assisting them through various "untainted and with-no-strings-attached" development projects.

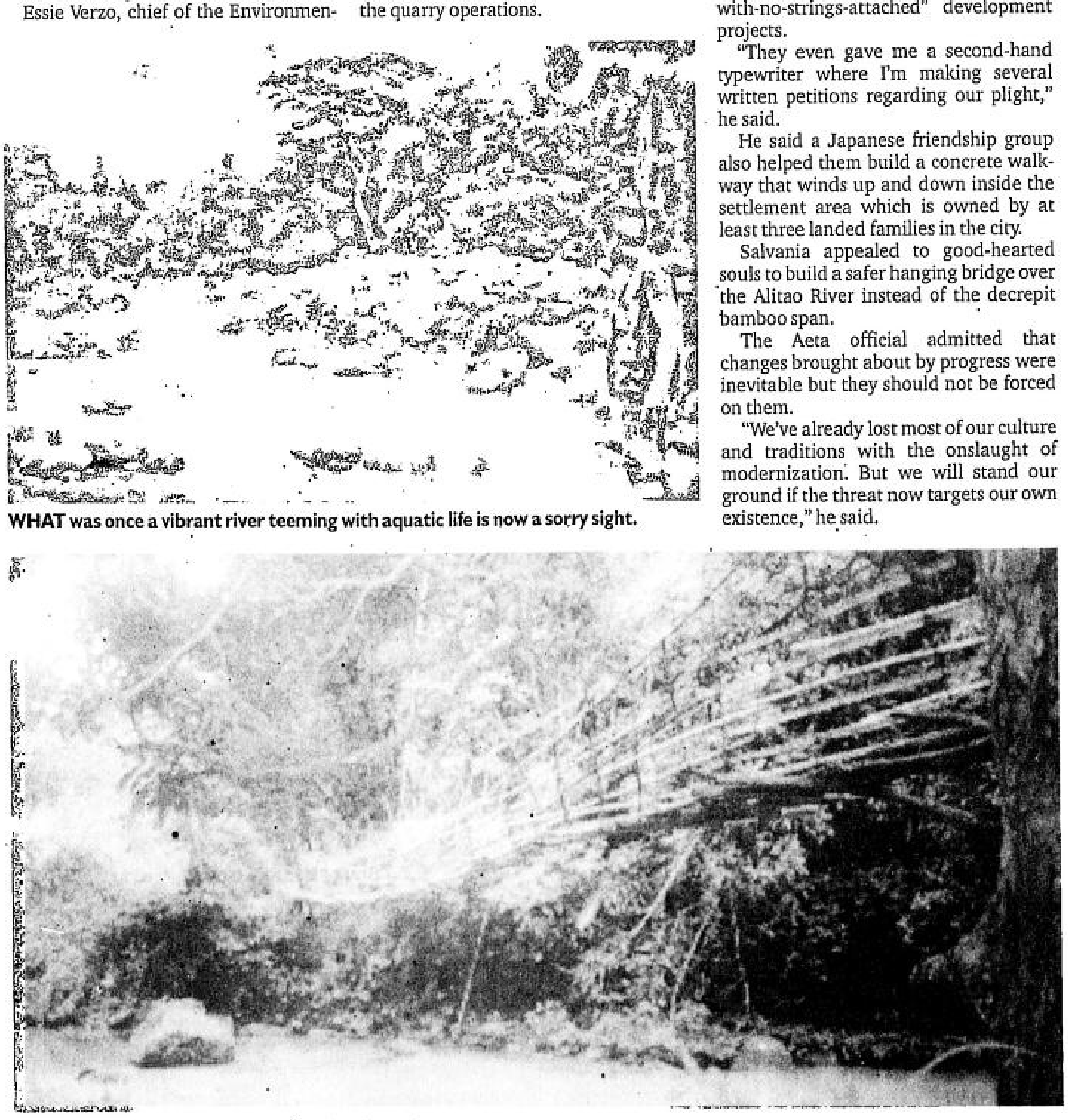
"They even gave me a second-hand typewriter where I'm making several written petitions regarding our plight," he said.

He said a Japanese friendship group also helped them build a concrete walkway that winds up and down inside the settlement area which is owned by at least three landed families in the city.

Salvania appealed to good-hearted souls to build a safer hanging bridge over the Alitao River instead of the decrepit bamboo span.

The Aeta official admitted that changes brought about by progress were inevitable but they should not be forced on them.

"We've already lost most of our culture and traditions with the onslaught of modernization. But we will stand our ground if the threat now targets our own existence," he said.



**THE DECREPIT** hanging bridge over the Alitao river.

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# A father's wish for miracles for 4 blind kids

**By Joyce Mejillano**
*Legazpi City*

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD Maricel Cantoria was just as excited as the other children in their far-flung village of Calipantawan in San Jacinto, Masbate, about an hour's ride by boat from the Masbate City proper, when classes opened in June.

But unlike other schoolers, she is being taught alone by Nena Delavin, who shares and dedicates her spare time imparting special lessons for the visually impaired.

Though she should be in Grade 5 at her age, Maricel feels honored that she is at least attending a class.

She and two sisters—Princess Sara, 5, Leizel, 3—and brother Cris, 6 months, were born blind. But they have never lost hope that someday, their dreams would come true.

## Incurable

Maricel is the third among eight Cantoria children, while Princess Sara is the sixth, followed by Leizel and Cris.

Their four brothers have normal eyesight.

Arles Cantoria, 38, their father, said he had had the eyes of his children checked by specialists in Legazpi City and in Masbate, but the doctors claimed that the defect could no longer be corrected, even through surgery.

Still, he has not lost hope.

Arles is a construction worker, while his wife Marilyn stays at home to look after their children, especially the youngest, Cris.

Records from Dr. Rollo Milante of the Legazpi Eye Center, who checked on the three girls on April 17 last year, show that the children have micro-ophthalmia or undeveloped eyes. Some doctors say they did not know of any medical treatment for the defect.

Delavin said a doctor in Manila whom she consulted about the girls' defect likewise said such condition was usually untreatable.

## Dreams

But the abnormality had not lost Maricel's hopes and dreams. Arles said she keeps on telling them that she wants to be a teacher someday, especially for the blind, so she can also help her sisters become literate despite their condition.

He said they were thankful when Delavin, a teacher in the San Jacinto Elementary School, volunteered to teach Maricel after her regular classes.

Princess Sara has her own dreams. She is interested in music and wants to be a singer someday, Arles said.

Delavin herself found the girls to be talented. Maricel learns fast, she said. The same is true with Sarah, whom she also easily gets along with when the latter comes with her sister to school.

The sisters have special talents like singing and are good in memorizing literary pieces such as poems, the teacher said.

She said she was touched by Maricel's perseverance. "Imagine, she, together with her elder brother who keeps her company, comes all the way from a really far village that takes more than an hour to go to school on a tricycle," she said.

When they have no money, they walk to school, Delavin said.

Delavin also wants a cane for Maricel as she noticed that the young girl uses a crooked stick as "alternative eyes."

## Hindrance

Arles fears that his children might not receive proper education. "There's no school in Masbate exclusively for the blind, and if we let them study outside Masbate in the future, I know it's impossible since we are poor," he said.

Delavin admitted that she could sustain teaching them only until Grade 6. Her training, she said, was meant only for the elementary level.

She said she sometimes allowed Maricel to attend her regular classes as she still had to undergo special lessons.

With the help of some equipment she acquired from the Resources for the Blind, Maricel was able to learn how to read.

"What's bothering me also is who will guide them when they grow up and if we're no longer in this world?" Arles confided.

He said his eldest child, a 15-year-old boy, had been forced to stop his high school studies to look after Maricel.

Arles wished his children would be given proper education aside from dreaming of a "miracle gift" that can enable them to see the world.

"With our poor life, we often wonder what to do to help my children," he said.

*THOSE who wish to help the Cantoria children can get in touch with the INQUIRER's Southern Luzon Bureau, 23 Doña Aurora St., Old Albay, Legazpi City, tel. no, (052) 820-8402.*

# Lastimoso: I am still in charge

By Abigail Ho

AS FAR as he's concerned, former Philippine National Police chief Roberto Lastimoso is still the head of the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

"Technically, I'm still the LTO chief. I've received no official communication (from Malacañang). I'm just on leave," Lastimoso said yesterday.

This is in spite of the announcement of Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza on Tuesday that he would be taking over the LTO's top spot.

Lastimoso related that he had sought a month-long leave of absence so that he could take a vacation from all the work he had to accomplish.

This request, he said, was granted only yesterday.

However, President Macapagal-Arroyo on July 4 ordered the former PNP chief to go on leave. She then assigned Undersecretary Agustin Bengzon to take Lastimoso's place for the meantime.

But Bengzon, citing "personal reasons," decided not to take on the task of temporarily heading the LTO.

Bengzon's refusal and the absence of a permanent replacement for Lastimoso prompted Mendoza to temporarily take over the agency.

# Demolitions in Metro rapped

## *Human rights violated, says global fact-finding team*

By Tina Santos
and Edson Tandoc Jr.

AN INTERNATIONAL fact-finding team yesterday expressed concern over demolitions in the metropolis saying their preliminary findings point to potential violations of human rights by the Metro Manila Development Authority.

Birte Scholz and Dan Nicholson, members of the fact-finding team from the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, a Geneva-based human rights non-governmental organization, said the demolitions took place in violation of the protections provided under international as well as national human rights laws.

"Demolitions of residential housing appear to have taken place without adequate notice and consultation with affected communities as required by human rights standards. Adequate housing was not also provided for those affected by eviction," Nicholson said.

He cited one demolition that took place during a typhoon which left affected families homeless and unprotected from the rain.

The two said they had talked to MMDA chair Bayani Fernando and other MMDA officials the other day to explain the results of their findings. But they said they "did not get adequate response" during the two-hour meeting.

"We were disappointed because they seem to be more concerned with their political bids rather than on the plight of Metro Manila residents," Scholz said.

But she added that the MMDA officials promised to answer the committee's concerns once these are put down in writing and formally sent to the MMDA.

Nicholson said that while the state of demolition projects in the country was not unique in Asia, the Philippines was "the most disappointing because the Philippines has good national laws on housing."

However, he said the laws were not being enforced.

"Consultation with the affected parties is the key ingredient to an eviction in compliance with international standards," Nicholson said.

The team said they visited the communities affected by the demolitions in East Avenue, Quezon Avenue and Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. At these sites, they clamed that there were at least 75 houses that were demolished by the MMDA in May this year.

# Ex-ABB chief's son, comrade charged with Go shooting

LEJUN de la Cruz

By Tarra Quismundo
and Leila Salaverria

THE WESTERN Police District yesterday filed frustrated murder charges against the son of former Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) chief Nilo de la Cruz and a comrade-in-arms for the shooting of Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok.

Lejun de la Cruz and Arnold Salazar were charged before the Manila City Prosecutor's Office after four witnesses identified them in a police line-up.

The witnesses, two vendors and the owners of two noodles stalls, have tagged the younger De la Cruz of being the gunman who shot Go at about 8 a.m. on July 1 along Adriatico Street in Malate, Manila.

Meanwhile, Salazar has been identified as the driver of the motorcycle used in their escape.

Two bullets hit Go in the cheek but he is now recovering from his wounds.

The witnesses were only a few meters from the crime scene. One of the vendors said he even sold a cigarette to the driver of the motorcycle.

Lejun said he and Salazar were "fall guys." He added, "They (police) can't even establish the motive (for Go's ambush) and now they're filing charges against us."

He also lambasted authorities for arresting him and Salazar based only on artist's sketches of the suspects.

"I look nothing like the suspect's cartographic sketch', and neither does Salazar," dela Cruz said.

Lejun claimed that Salazar did not know how to ride a motorcycle much less use one as a getaway vehicle.

Asked about his whereabouts on July 1, the day of the ambush, the son of the former ABB chief said he could not remember.

"But I couldn't remember where I was yesterday," he added with a laugh.

Both men are members of the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino-Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade which is now engaged in peace talks with the government.

The younger De la Cruz said he and Salazar were holders of safe conduct passes because of the peace talks.

The plainclothes policemen who nabbed them on Sunday at the Centennial Terminal of the Manila International Airport also had no warrants for their arrest, he added.

"We are contemplating on filing charges against the police for illegal arrest and detention," their lawyer Romeo Dolleton said.

# A father's lament

ON TARGET

*Ramon Tulfo*

MY HEART broke when I heard the story of Eric Cochingyan, a businessman who lost his two sons in a fire at his condominium unit in Binondo, Manila, two days before Christmas last year.

"I can't bring back the lives of my sons by complaining to you," Cochingyan said holding back tears. "I just wanted to expose the incompetence of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and the criminal negligence of the owners of the apartment building."

Cochingyan, 40, said he was not home when fire struck his unit. His sons Fortune, 9, and Brandon, 5, were left to the care of the maid.

The maid abandoned the two children while the fire was eating up the apartment unit, said Cochingyan, a single parent. The maid has not been seen since then.

* * *

**Fortune and Brandon were pupils at the Chiang Kai Shek School in Chinatown. Fortune was a champion swimmer who represented his school in competitions.**

**Fortune was in third grade while Brandon was in kindergarten.**

**"They were the only people I had in my life," Cochinghyan said.**

**Cochingyan's wife left home several years ago and never came back.**

* * *

The Cochingyans' home was on the fifth floor of the Li Seng Giap building on Barraca Street, Binondo. The building is made of wood.

The grieving father said only his unit and the adjacent unit were burned in the fire that started in his unit.

The building's first floor houses stores, the second and third floors are rented to an office. The fourth and fifth floors are residential units. The Cochingyans were renting their unit for P14,000 a month.

* * *

**"Mr. Tulfo, the building does not have a fire escape, it does not have an opening in the window grills," said Cochingyan.**

**He said that had there been a fire escape and an opening in the window grills his two boys would still be alive today.**

**As in other stories about incompetence of authorities, two fire stations are just a few meters away from the ill-fated building. One station belongs to the Bureau of Fire Protection, the other is manned by Chinese fire volunteers.**

* * *

The building did not have an occupancy permit from City Hall, Cochingyan found out.

He got hold of a document saying that Supt. Pablito Cordeta, BFP district fire marshal who has jurisdiction in the area, gave the old wooden structure a passing mark in fire safety.

Cochingyan kept asking Cordeta for the results of the investigation into what caused the fire. All Cordeta could give by way of a reply was that the businessman's request had been "acted upon and forwarded to the address at No. 344 Barraca Street, Binondo."

The address Cordeta mentioned happens to be Cochingyan's address.

* * *

**In short, Cordeta could not give definite results of the investigation because the building's deficiencies would blow up in his face.**

**Cordeta had approved the safety features of the building even without his subordinates inspecting it.**

**You know what the BFP does so it will not have to inspect the fire safety of buildings, as provided for under the law? BFP officials sell fire extinguishers at exorbitant prices to building owners.**

* * *

Meanwhile the Li Seng Giap Building continues to be a fire hazard, according to Cochingyan.

And Cordeta continues to ignore his request for the results of the investigation into the cause of the fire, as well as the building's deficiencies.

Cochingyan might as well wait for the end of the world for that report to come out.

* * *

**Bayani Batac, a hearing officer at the Traffic Adjudication Board of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), answered a call for help from a neighbor in San Andres, Manila, to mediate in a traffic dispute.**

**The dispute concerned a tricycle driver and two Manila policemen, PO3 Daylan Carel and PO3 Venerando Minas. The two cops were arresting a tricycle driver, Nestor Nopat, for allegedly driving without license and not wearing a helmet.**

**Nopat said he left his license at home and would want the cops to wait while he got it. As to driving without a helmet, tricycle drivers are not required to wear a crash helmet.**

* * *

Batac was about to go to sleep when he was called. He had drunk several shots of brandy at home, as was his wont to get him to sleep.

When Batac tried to intercede for Nopat, the two cops handcuffed him and took him to the police station.

Carel and Minas are members of the Western Police District anti-carnapping group. They had no business arresting drivers for a traffic violation.

* * *

**Apparently, the two cops took offense at Batac's interceding with neighbor Nopat, taking it for interference in their job.**

**They took Batac and Nopat to their station and jailed them for 24 hours.**

**If those cops could oppress an MMDA official, what do you think they would do to ordinary citizens like you and me?**

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, July 24, 2003
16th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20
Gospel: Mt 13:10-17

Jesus' disciples came to him with the question, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"

Jesus answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but not to these people. For the one who has, will be given more and he will have in abundance. But the one who does not have will be deprived of even what he has. That is why I speak to them in parables, because they look and do not see; they hear, but they do not listen or understand.

"In them the words of the prophet Isaiah are fulfilled: Much as you hear, you do not understand; much as you see, you do not perceive.

"For the heart of this people has grown dull. Their ears hardly hear and their eyes dare not see. If they were to see with their eyes, hear with their ears and understand with their heart, they would turn back and I would heal them.

"But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears, because they hear.

"For I tell you that many prophets and upright people would have longed to see the things you see, but they did not, and to hear the things you hear, but they did not hear it."

**Commentary**

*The explanation Jesus gives to his disciples who asked him why he speaks to people in parables may appear cruel and harsh at first. He says he does so "in order that they may look without seeing and listen without hearing." Why would anyone want to do that? Isn't it clarity and insight that we wish to give people whenever we speak to them? It is one of the rather hard but real facts of life that 'nothing comes easy.' But it is just as real a fact of life that those who persevere and strive with the best of their abilities to achieve their goals, do succeed and find fulfillment in life. The same holds true of our faith. True enough, it is a gift from God that none of us merited. But it is just as true of it that those who put more effort into living their faith sincerely and with much enthusiasm, will find it a worthwhile source of strength and joy in their life. Jesus was not being harsh at all, he was simply being realistic when he said that "to him who has more will be given, to him who has not, whatever little he has will be taken away from him." Faith is a gift, something we don't merit; but it's something we must cherish and treasure, lest it wither away and die.*

*Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)*

# Ex-model fights uphill battle vs major bank

From page A19

Jose Isidro Camacho to ask for help.

She said she did this because officials at Amanah had refused to uphold the three-year-old ruling and had acted in bad faith during the negotiations.

Artadi recounted how officials of the bank would negotiate with her or her counsel, but would not put the offers in writing.

She said she had even sought the help of a sheriff and, armed with an order, had gone to the bank to cease its operations, but was prevailed upon by bank officials not to push through with her plan because the bank might collapse.

Artadi said the bank had given her a list of properties that it owned, not as payment, but as a guarantee that she would be paid.

She and her lawyer Frank Chavez had the properties levied so that the bank would not be able to sell them, Artadi said.

Since then, several offers have been exchanged between Artadi and the bank, but no settlement has been reached. She pointed out that it was even she who set up the meetings with Amanah officials.

The latest offer from Amanah was to pay Artadi P14.7 million in exchange for her returning the levied properties to the bank to sell so that the bank would be able to pay for the rest of the balance it owed her.

Artadi accepted, provided the bank put the offer in writing. But the officials refused, saying the board members still had to approve the plan.

This led her to believe the bank was not sincere in negotiating with her, Artadi said.

She said she had received advise to sell the properties and take the money, but had not done so because illegal settlers had built homes on the properties and no one wanted to buy. She said she had tried to auction off the properties.

In her last meeting with Amanah officials, the bankers were firm on their line that they have no money pay her, Artadi said.

But Artadi said she had received information that P400 million would be infused into the bank to pay for its liabilities.

"At any rate, I feel disillusioned," Artadi said. "I now fear my life is in danger as I have certainly angered the Amanah board and its members."

Artadi is even more dismayed that a government-owned bank could ignore the law so easily.

"(The problem) should have been addressed in 1988, but it was allowed to drag this long," she said. "The condition of the bank has worsened. Who loses but the government?"

But Artadi has vowed to continue her fight.

"At the end of the day, when you've been wronged, you have to come forward to fight for your right. I'm not doing government a favor if I give up because I'll be part of a team that encourages corruption."

# Robbers strike as storm...

From page A19

When she got inside, Costales said she saw another man taking things from a room.

Costales told the police that when the man saw her, he casually greeted her good night and walked out of the house.

She said she immediately woke her husband up and, together, they sought the help of the police.

Costales said cool winds brought by strong rains had lulled her husband to sleep.

It did not take long, however, before the police caught up with the suspects, who were later identified as Francis Villanueva, 28, Angelito Alvaro, 23, and Reynaldo Roque.

In Marikina, robbers took advantage of an unlocked window when they broke into the office of the principal of the Santa Elena Elementary School.

The police said the robbers got inside by slipping through a glass window left open the other day and carted away a portable camera and some P5,000 in cash.

A teacher discovered the theft at around 6 a.m. yesterday.

## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—**Judge may not be held administratively liable for every erroneous order**—The settled doctrine is that judges are not liable to respond in a civil action for damages, and are not otherwise administratively responsible for what they may do in the exercise of their judicial functions when acting within their legal powers and jurisdiction. Certain it is that a judge may not be held administratively accountable for every erroneous order or decision he renders. To hold otherwise would be to render judicial office untenable, for no one called upon to try the facts or interpret the law in the process of administering justice can be infallible in his judgment. More importantly, the error must be gross or patent, deliberate and malicious, or incurred with evident bad faith. Bad faith does not simply connote bad judgment or negligence; it imputes a dishonest purpose or some moral obliquity and conscious doing of a wrong; a breach of a sworn duty through some motive or intent or ill-will; it partakes of the nature of fraud. It contemplates a state of mind affirmatively operating with furtive design or some motive of self-interest or ill-will for ulterior purposes. While this Court will never tolerate or condone any act, conduct or omission that would violate the norm of public accountability or diminish the people's faith in the judiciary, neither will it hesitate to shield those under its employ from unfounded suits that only serve to disrupt rather than promote the orderly administration of justice. The record does not show that respondent judge was moved by ill-will or bad faith in rendering the adverse judgment, or that his ruling was manifestly unjust. Complainant has not, in fact, adduced any proof to show that impropriety attended the issuance of the subject resolutions. Bad faith is not presumed and he who alleges the same has the onus of proving it. The alleged error of the respondent judge was not gross, and the record is bereft of any showing of deliberate or malicious intent on the part of respondent judge to cause prejudice to any party. [Citations omitted.] [Resolution, Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Ang v. Quilala, A.M. No. MTJ-03-1476. Feb. 4]

BY R. B. VERA

NISSAN GALLERY QUEZON AVENUE

# The flagship Nissan dealer rejuvenated

**NISSAN, the brand, is undergoing a revival. Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. (NMPI), the assembler, is undertaking a rejuvenation of its product line with the introduction of exciting new models like the new Nissan X-Trail, in addition to its already formidable line-up which includes the Nissan Cefiro, the Nissan Serena, the Nissan Sentra Exalta and the Nissan Verita. Thus, it would naturally follow that its extensive dealer network will have its own revival.**

Nissan Gallery was the first among the dealerships in the Philippines, as well as in the entire Asian region to heed the call of the brand's revival. In close coordination with Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. (NML) of Japan and NMPI, the Gallery renovated its Quezon Avenue dealership and from its rebirth came Nissan's Flagship Dealer in the whole world: Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue.

Located along the premier "Automotive Row" in Quezon City, the showroom of Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue or NGQA will be formally inaugurated tonight, July 24, along with the dealer launch of Nissan's exciting new X-Trail.

NGQA is housed in a sprawling building complex that incorporates its showroom, service area, parts warehouse and corporate offices. Its wide façade was recently reworked to feature a more convenient access to service reception, improved parking and of course, the eye-catching exterior renovation that showcases the new Nissan global corporate identification and highlights the interior of the new showroom.

The NGQA showroom was designated as a "Flagship showroom" by Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. and is the first in the world to showcase Nissan's new direction towards world-class standards in products and services. Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue has spearheaded the brand's thrust towards World-Class Nissan Service, ahead of Nissan dealers located in the United States and other highly industrialized countries. A heightened level of quality service welcomes customers and visitors to the showroom. Courteous sales receptionists and highly trained Nissan sales professionals are likewise on hand to answer the customer's inquiries on the product features as well as other concerns such as financing, insurance and accessories. Customers can likewise expect the same level of competence and courtesy from the service reception and the parts counter personnel.

## Award-winning

This customer-centered culture did not just sprout overnight. Nissan Gallery Ortigas (NGO), the sister dealership of Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue, is an award-winning Nissan dealership in its own right. Established in 1994, it topped that year's Customer Service Index (CSI) survey conducted by Japan's Tokyo Research Consultants (TRC) and won the prestigious "Dealer of the Year" award from Nissan Motor Philippines in the same year. It won several awards from NMPI afterwards, including "Best in Service Operations" in 1995 and 2002 and "Best Dealer in Customer Satisfaction" in 1994, 1995, 2000 and 2001. It likewise accumulated awards from Universal Motors Corporation (UMC), the assembler and distributor of Nissan light commercial vehicles (LCV) and sports utility vehicles (SUV) such as the Nissan Patrol, the Nissan Terrano and the Nissan Frontier line of 4x4 and 4x2 pick-ups. Nissan Gallery Ortigas garnered awards from UMC for "Excellence in Parts Operations" in 1999 and 2000 and "Most Improved Dealer in Sales" in 1999 and 2000. Its service personnel also won in Nissan International Service Technical (NISTEC) contests, capturing the Service Advisor Championships in 1994 and 1997 as well as the Technical Category in 1997. The Gallery acquired the Quezon Avenue dealership in July 2002 and began restructuring it for the customer's convenience and satisfaction, culminating in its current designation as the "Flagship Nissan Dealership".

And the customer-oriented DNA of Nissan Gallery Ortigas and Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue does not end there. They are always in the process of improving customer satisfaction by constantly employing training and modern techniques to further improve their

NGQA: THE FLAGSHIP/ A17

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|---|---|---|---|---|
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| Grand Total Savings | 15% | 91,558 | 137;353 | 173,958 |
| | 20% | 87,410 | 132,202 | 165,861 |
| | 25% | 83,204 | 126,993 | 157,705 |
| | 30% | 79,116 | 121,842 | 149,548 |
| | 35% | 74,910 | 116,692 | 141,391 |
| | 40% | 70,762 | 111,541 | 133,235 |

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### NEW NISSAN X-TRAIL

# X-citing, X-treme!

**THE X-TRAIL** is a mid-sized sport utility vehicle (SUV) with a monocoque chassis derived from Nissan's all-conquering super sports coupe with four-wheel-drive and four-wheel-steering, the Skyline GTS.

> Owing perhaps to its rugged nature, the Nissan X-Trail features exclusive polycarbonate fenders that can deform to absorb minor shocks, shunts and bumps and then pop back to its original shape without paint or structural damage. This feature is particularly useful when traversing the rough and tough trails that the owner could drive the X-Trail to

NISSAN Gallery Quezon Avenue (NGQA), the flagship Nissan dealership will launch the new exciting and extreme Nissan X-Trail sports utility vehicle (SUV) during the inauguration of its flagship showroom tonight, July 24.

The X-trail is a mid-sized sport utility vehicle (SUV) with a monocoque chassis derived from Nissan's all-conquering super sports coupe with four-wheel-drive and four-wheel-steering, the Skyline GTS. This Japan-only sports coupe lent much of its structural rigidity and strong underpinnings to the X-Trail. Independent aluminum suspension can be found on all four corners, as 5-spoke mag wheels and disc brakes with Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS) and Electronic Brake Distribution (EBD).

The X-Trail's body is sized to compete with the Ford Escape, Honda CRV, Toyota RAV-4, Suzuki Grand Vitara and even with the imported Hyundai Santa Fe or Range Rover Freelander. Owing perhaps to its rugged nature, the Nissan X-Trail features exclusive polycarbonate fenders that can deform to absorb minor shocks, shunts and bumps and then pop back to its original shape without paint or structural damage. This feature is particularly useful when traversing the rough and tough trails that the owner could drive the X-Trail to, knowing the off-road capabilities of its available All-Mode full-time 4-wheel-drive system with electronic coupling. This system splits the torque at 57 percent to the front wheels and 43 percent to the rear while it delivers the drive to the wheel that needs it most using the ABS and EBD electronic sensors.

Power is provided by either a 2.0-liter 16-valve twin-cam electronic fuel-injected ECCS-equipped 4-cylinder engine that produces 150hp (for the 4x2 and 4x4) or a 2.5-liter version that delivers 180hp at 6000 rpm and 180 ft-lbs of torque at 4000rpm (for the 4x4). This Q-series engine is made in Iwaki, Japan and is also fuel efficient and environment-friendly with its factory-installed catalytic converters. Transmission choices include 5-speed manual or 4-speed automatic with overdrive while console-mounted buttons control the drive train, with 2WD, Auto (on demand 2WD or 4WD) and Lock (4WD differential lock for really tough or slippery road conditions).

The interior of the new X-Trail is plush yet rugged, as it is designed for a sporting off-road lifestyle. The seats can be folded to a number of configurations to accommodate your gear and is washable so you can have no excuse for not bringing your dirtied equipment inside. An innovative center-mounted instrument panel keeps your eyes on the road while you peruse the vital signs on the brightly illuminated gauges. A center dash-mounted Drink Cooler works with the air-conditioning system to ensure that you get a cool drink no matter where you are.

The Nissan X-Trail is at home on the out backs or around the city. It is a comfortable runabout that can be used for rugged mountain trails or tranquil highways. It is a handsome machine that can absorb the torture of toughest terrain, whether in the boondocks or in our pot-holed city streets.

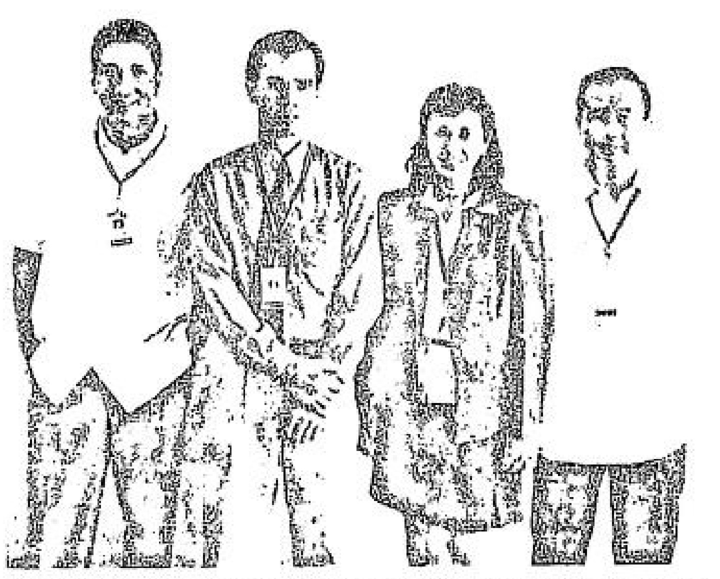
At P1.199 million for the 2-liter 4x2 model, P1.333 million for the 2-liter 4X4 model and P1.495 milion for the 2.5-liter 4x4 variant, customers can reserve for their Nissan X-Trail at Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue or at Nissan Gallery Ortigas.

# NGQA flagship dealer of Nissan BIVI in Asia

NISSAN Motor Co., Ltd. recently introduced the Brand Image, Visual Identity (BIVI) value to its affiliates and dealers worldwide. Its aim is to support the highest standards of quality products and services for the Nissan Brand. BIVI means customers will get world-class Nissan products and services anywhere in the world.

Nissan Japan and Nissan Motor Phils., Inc. have chosen Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue to be the Flagship Dealer of Nissan BIVI in Asia because of its commitment to Total Customer Satisfaction. It is also located at the premier automotive row in the Philippines (Quezon Avenue), making the BIVI value closer to more customers. Beginning with its showroom remodeling, Nissan Gallery TeamMates are undertaking the BIVI value orientation and training to give customers the promise of "providing products and services that reflect the imaginative fusion of the best technology and the best design."

Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue will be launched as the Flagship Dealer in Asia on Thursday, July 24.



**GROUP** sales managers take leadership training to enhance their ability to understand and implement BIVI.

## Training, development answer to the challenge

THE BRAND Identity, Visual Image (BIVI) value Nissan Motor Co. Ltd has initiated presents a great challenge to the chosen flagship dealer, Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue. President Wency C. Ong accepts this challenge. He recognizes the urgency of training and developing the Nissan Gallery TeamMates, to support the BIVI value they are undertaking.

Assisting the Nissan Flagship Dealer in Asia is the Organization and Management Development (OMD) of the Monark Group. The OMD reviewed the training needs of Nissan Gallery TeamMates, and developed a training program that best ensures the execution and living out of Nissan BIVI. The program started June 26 and is still ongoing. Group sales managers are also taking a leadership training to enhance their ability to understand and implement BIVI as it relates to planning, organizing, delegating, and controlling tasks and responsibilities.

Nissan Motor Phils., Inc. continues to support Nissan Gallery in providing product knowledge, marketing management, and the Nissan Sales and Service Way (NSSW) trainings to Nissan Gallery TeamMates. These are practical preparations for the application of Nissan BIVI.

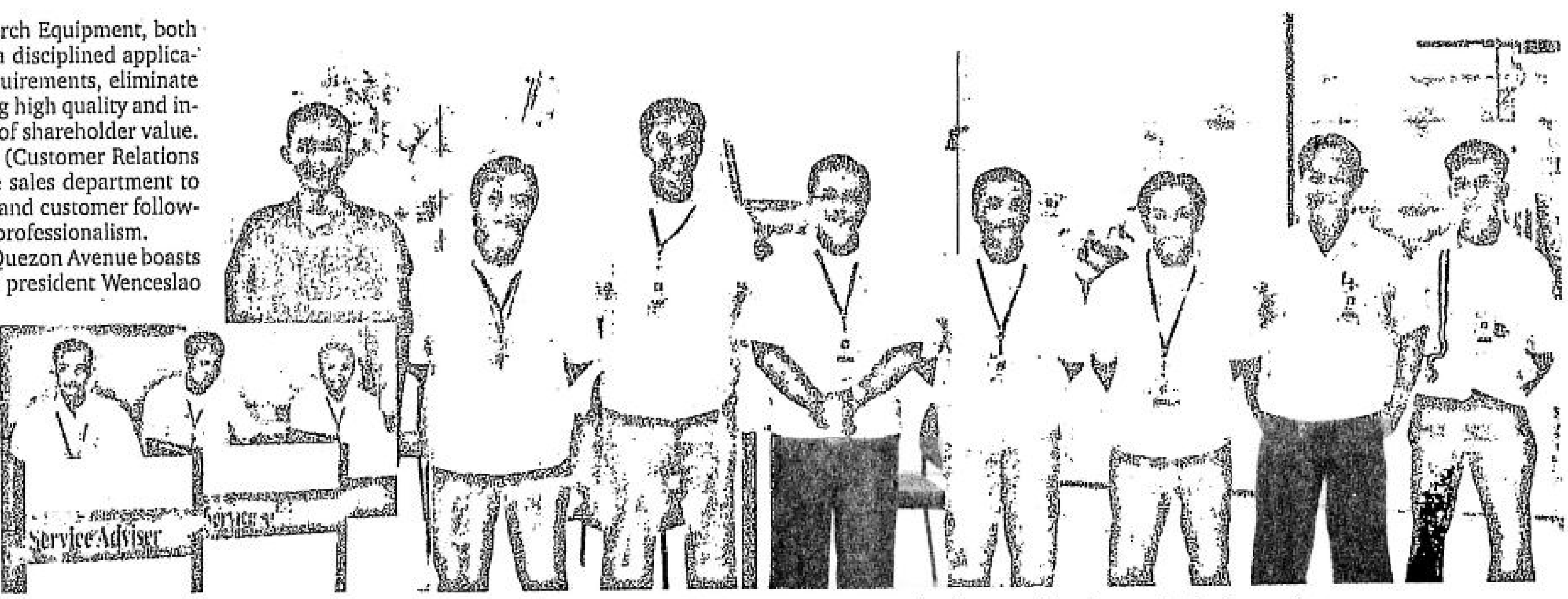
Nissan Gallery sees its workforce as the key players in the Flagship Dealership. The training and development programs will bond together all their talents and service orientation to the path of keeping up to the Nissan Brand Identity, Visual Image value.

# NGQA: The flagship Nissan dealer rejuvenated

From page A16

services. Along with their sister company, Monarch Equipment, both dealerships have undergone 6 Sigma, which is a disciplined application of statistical tools to improve customer requirements, eliminate defects and increase profitability while delivering high quality and innovative solutions to customers and high levels of shareholder value. The dealerships have also instituted IFCA-CRM (Customer Relations Management), a computerized program for the sales department to maximize prospecting activities, sales potential and customer follow-up as it keeps close tabs on the sales personnel's professionalism.

Besides the sales department, Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue boasts of professionalism in all its departments. NGQA president Wenceslao C. Ong is a marketing and management professional who formerly handled the growth of another Nissan dealership and led it to its peak performance. Wency, as he likes to be called, has likewise programmed the resurgence and growth of NGQA. Despite his busy schedule, he is known as a hands-on type of manager and has been known to frequent the showroom and service reception areas to talk to his staff and to customers to get their opinions and feedbacks.



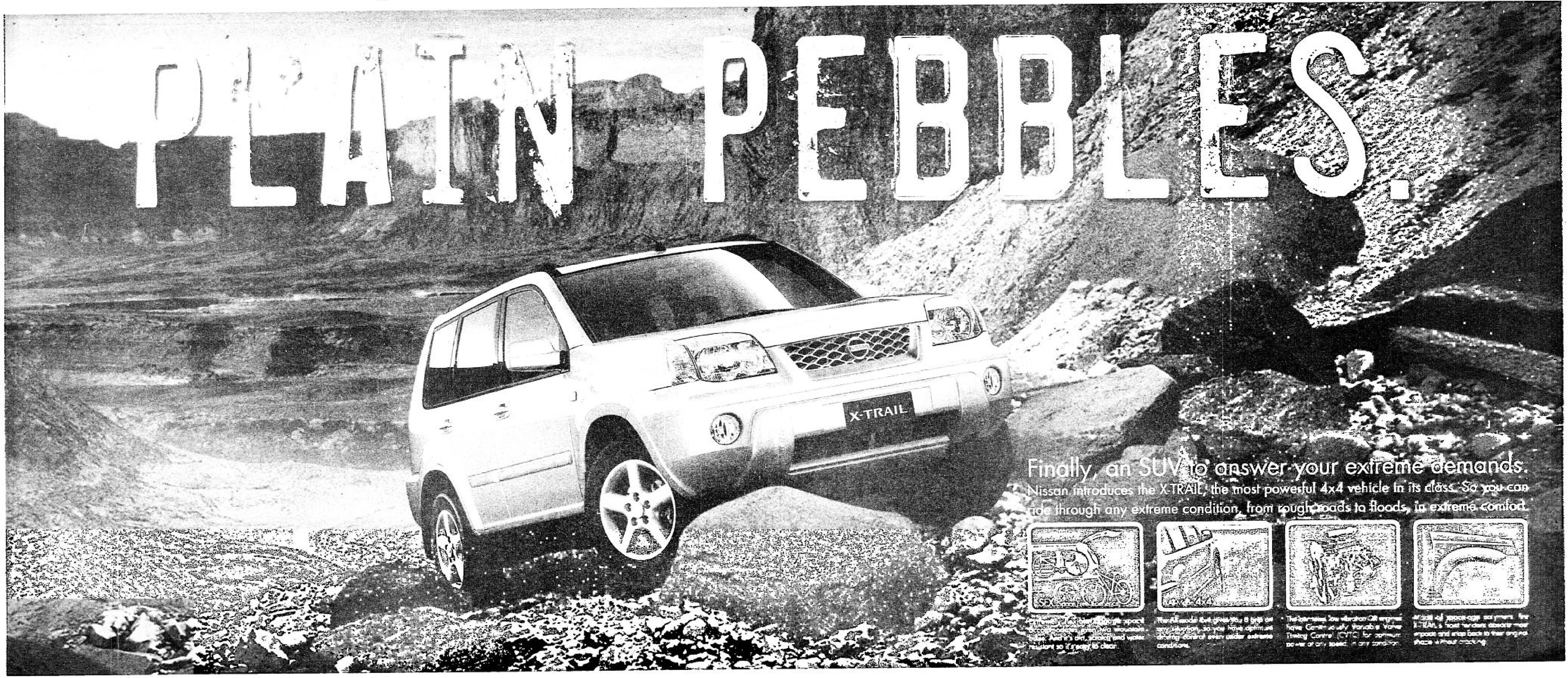
**SERVICE** advisors (above and inset) are proud of their customer-centered values, resulting in award-winning service.

### Committed professionals

Ong is ably supported by a likewise committed group of professionals. Vice president for operations Dante I. Reyes is a marketing professional who has made a mark for himself in the field of sales, specializing in corporate accounts and fleet sales, and has been making headway as well in the management of the Gallery's growing number of Nissan sales professionals. Flordeliza B. Espiritu, the manager of the Personnel and Customer Relations Department (PCRD) has helped lead the Gallery to the aforementioned customer-related awards and is consistently looking for ways to improve customer satisfaction. Service manager Mar Castaneda is a highly trained technical service professional who used to handle the technical training of Nissan service personnel nationwide in his former capacity at NMPI as well as assess their impact on customer satisfaction. Even their senior group sales manager (GSM) Manny Ng and fellow GSMs Glenn Mendoza, Jonathan Mateo and Imelda Kalaw are customer-oriented sales professionals who have garnered sales achievements awards and have been consistent members of NMPI's coveted Nissan Winners Club.

Nissan Gallery's chairman Jose Antonio Banson is evidently proud of Nissan Gallery Quezon Avenue as being the flagship Nissan dealership in the world, a first for a Philippine automotive dealership. He invites customers to come to NGQA and experience a WOW feeling when they are at the dealership. He also invites cyber enthusiasts to visit the Gallery at www.nissangallery.com for a preview of the products and services that dealership offers.

**THE SALES** force benefit from the IFCA-CRM (Customer Relations Management), a computerized program for the sales department to maximize prospecting activities, sales potential and customer follow-up as it keeps close tabs on the sales personnel's professionalism.



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[illegible] accommodates even two mountain bikes. And it's dirt, scratch and water resistant so it's easy to clean.

[illegible] gives you a grip on any situation, so you have optimum driving control even under extreme conditions.

[illegible] have Continuously Variable Valve Timing Control (CVTC) for optimum power at any speed, in any condition.

[illegible] of space-age polymers, the X-TRAIL's front fenders absorb minor impacts and snap back to their original shape without cracking.

**X-TRAIL**

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# METRO

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

**FOUR DIGIT**
6 1 1 7
(In exact order)

**SUERTRES**
3 1 9

**MEGALOTTO 6/45**
11 14 21 32 33 38

ARTADI: Still fighting after 15 years.

# Ex-model fights uphill battle vs major bank

By Leila Salaverria

FORMER beauty title holder Sabrina Artadi has spent 15 years in litigation trying to recover about P15 million from the government-owned Al Amanah Islamic Investment Bank of the Philippines.

She said she had won her case at the Court of Appeals, but officials of the only Muslim bank in the country had kept on giving her excuses for not releasing the money.

Artadi, a former commercial model and a single mother, said her legal battle with Amanah began in 1988 when she owned Celebrity Travel and Tours and had been issued a manager's check worth P14.7 million from Amanah bank.

The money was supposed to pay for the trip of pilgrims travelling to Mecca. The deal was done, and her clients had left, but when she deposited the check, the bank claimed it had no funds.

Artadi said she was surprised and devastated even as she pointed out that the bank had broken the cardinal rule that a manager's check must always be funded.

She sued the bank.

When the bank said it could not pay her, Artadi closed down her business and had to sell her car, pawn her jewelry, and find another job.

"I was doing commercials, but I had to stop so that I could think about making serious money," Artadi said.

A big portion of the salary she made went to pay off her debts and the wages of her staff.

At that time, Artadi even went through an ugly custody battle with her former husband for their two children.

"It took me 11 years to finally get back on my feet," she said.

In 2000, with her debts paid and her children safely with her, Artadi learned she won her case against Amanah at the Court of Appeals.

The court ordered Amanah to pay her P14.7 million plus 12 percent interest for every year from 1988 until the case was resolved.

The decision has since become final and executory, Artadi said.

Amado Bulaitan, Amanah Bank's senior vice-president for finance and administration, declined to comment on Artadi's statement.

"The case is still pending in the Supreme Court," he told the INQUIRER. "It's still being deliberated as far as we are concerned."

But despite her victory at the Court of Appeals, the bank still refused to pay her, saying it had no funds.

Artadi said that after she had won her case, she had met with Finance Secretary

TITLE/A15

# Leave us alone, say Muslims

## *Leaders claim hunt for Al-Ghozi hurting them*

By Leila Salaverria, Edson Tandoc Jr. and Tarra Quismundo

MUSLIM leaders yesterday told the authorities to leave them alone and put a stop to the police operations being conducted in Islamic centers throughout Metro Manila in search of escaped terror suspect Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

Datu Amerol Gulam Ambiong, head of the Metro Manila Peace and Coordinating Council, yesterday condemned the series of raids and said that they smack of discrimination against Muslims.

Members of Muslim communities do not hide fugitives, Ambiong said.

The Muslim leader was referring to the recent police operations in the Islamic Center in Quiapo, Manila, and communities in Taguig and Quezon City, after the police received reports that al-Ghozi and two other escapees were sighted in the areas.

"The Muslim community is now afraid because of the raids, but what if they get angry?" Ambiong said yesterday. "The government already has a problem with Muslims in the South. (If the raids keep up, the authorities) would have problems with Muslims in Metro Manila."

He also said that it is wrong for the police to arrest persons and file charges against them just because they had failed to find Al-Ghozi.

Ambiong said that Al-Ghozi and his fellow escapees, Abu Sayyaf members Abdulmukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal, would not hide in Islamic centers.

### P10-million bounty

"Only 20 percent of the Muslims in Metro Manila are rich," he said, adding that the rest—80 percent—are only vendors. "Millions (of pesos) were involved in the escape. (The escapees) would not hide in the Islamic centers."

But Ambiong added that should Al-Ghozi turn up in the said areas, the leaders would turn him over to authorities.

He said he and other Muslim leaders have met with Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco and have asssured him that they would help in the hunt for Al-Ghozi, especially since the Indonesian terror suspect has a P10-million bounty on his head.

Last week, the Western Police District conducted police operations at the Islamic Center in Quiapo in search of Al-Ghozi. Eleven persons were rounded up.

On Tuesday, the police raided the Maharlika Village in Taguig, but failed to nab the terror suspect. Instead, eight "suspicious-looking" residents were invited for questioning, while equipment for the manufacture of fake CDs and VCDs had been seized from two houses.

### Warrant out

Police searching for Al-Ghozi now has a warrant to show.

Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 54 has issued a warrant for Al-Ghozi's arrest on Tuesday, about a week after the Indonesian bomb expert and two Abu Sayyaf members escaped a heavily-guarded compound in Camp Crame.

But manhunt operations to catch Al-Ghozi has been going on, even before the court issued the warrant.

The Manila court did not issue the warrant earlier since the national police's Intelligence Group had not filed an official report on Al-Ghozi's escape, according to branch clerk of court Aimee Santos-Arago.

In Caloocan, more than 300 policemen yesterday stormed a barangay in the city after receiving reports that one of the three fugitive suspects was hiding in the area.

However, Northern Police District lawmen did not find any of the three in the area.

NPD director Marcelino Franco Jr. told the INQUIRER yesterday that on Tuesday afternoon, he received a call from a police informer that Abdulmukim Ong Edris was seen loitering somewhere in the Kamada compound, Barangay Dagat-Dagatan.

### Raid

At 4 p.m. Tuesday, Franco ordered close monitoring of the compound to verify the report. He decided to raid the area at 10:45 a.m. yesterday.

Franco said that they were not only looking for Al-Ghozi and the two Sayyaf members, they were also out to arrest other crime suspects in the area, long identified as a snatchers' lair.

After surprising residents, the policemen cordoned off about 2,000 houses and asked all the men to assemble in a basketball court.

Then, the policemen, armed with a watch list of suspects, verified if any of the men were included in the watch list. Nobody was arrested in yesterday's raid. The policemen also did not search the houses in the area.

Al-Ghozi has been convicted of illegal possession of explosives in General Santos City. He is also accused of the December 2000 bombing of a Light Rail Transit station in Manila where 12 persons were killed and 19 others injured.

# Robbers strike as storm lulls homeowners to sleep

By Luige del Puerto

"GOOD evening, ma'am," a robber yesterday greeted the owner of the house he had just ransacked.

According to homeowner Marissa Costales, she had just arrived home from work when she saw two people walk out of the gate of her house on P. Gomez Street, Barangay San Jose, Pasig City.

Robbers/A15

# Massive cleanup awaits Metro in typhoon's wake

By Margaux Ortiz and Edson Tandoc Jr.

IT'S NOT FAIR.

METRO Manila Development Authority officials yesterday said that they are now thinking of ways to charge owners of billboards that had been damaged during the storm and left to rot in the streets.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said that after typhoon Harurot hit the country on Tuesday, damaged billboards have cluttered up Metro Manila streets.

The MMDA director also said that almost all of the billboards in Metro Manila made of tarpaulin were either torn or brought down by the typhoon's winds.

Vergel de Dios said that he had to send many of his men to clean up the damaged billboards, even if these were under the jurisdiction of local government units.

He added that they had to tend to the damaged billboards, to prevent traffic jams or worse, road accidents.

Vergel de Dios said that local government units are required to roll up billboards in the event of a typhoon.

"They must have been caught unaware," Vergel de Dios said.

He also said that advertisers earn so much from the billboards, which have now become the MMDA's responsibility.

"Why don't they share a little of their revenues with us so we could finance our people?" Vergel de Dios said.

He said that it was unfair on the part of government workers to clean up the mess of these "big-earners."

The MMDA yesterday deployed 2,000 Metro aides for a massive post-typhoon cleanup.

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said that the Metro aides will clear the streets and waterways of remnants and debris brought about by the typhoon.

In Malabon City, residents have to contend with the effects of the super-typhoon.

Major streets in the city yesterday were still underwater, especially those in the flood-prone areas of Dampalit and Catmon.

The typhoon aggravated the daily flooding residents in the area have to contend with because of high tide. And while the roads remained passable, the flood slowed down traffic in most streets as students went back to school yesterday.

In Valenzuela City, the typhoon left two men injured. Isagani Padilla, about 40, and Gilbert Marcos, 19, were electrocuted while working on water leaks in their respective houses.

The two residents of Barangay Caloong, Valenzuela City, were rushed to the Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital after the incident.

# Video game machines held, burned

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

GAME over.

The National Police District yesterday burned 47 illegal video game machines seized from various areas in Northern Metro Manila as part of the district's drive against illegal gambling.

NPD director Marcelino Franco Jr. led the burning of the gambling equipment.

Thirty-one of the burned machines had been under the custody of the NPD. Ten came from the Caloocan City Police, while six were seized in Valenzuela and Navotas.

Another burning of video machines is slated next month, the NPD said.

# Drunken man takes own wife hostage

By Alcuin Papa

A HUSBAND took his own wife hostage for two hours in Las Pinas City the other night after the two had an argument after a drinking session.

Ernesto Macaroyo, 30, of Dona Manuela Subdivision, Pamplona, had earlier played "tong-its" with his wife Evelyn, his sister and the sister's boyfriend.

Instead of money, they agreed that the loser for every round would take a shot of vodka.

Unfortunately, Ernesto had a losing streak and gulped down shots of vodka and got drunk.

They adjourned the game at around 5 p.m. and the couple went up to their house. There, the two argued about a P10,000 loan Ernesto took out from a lending institution in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, which had remained unpaid.

The heated argument led to Ernesto beating up Evelyn. Not contended, he got two knives and threatened to stab his wife.

Evelyn then called the help of her sister-in-law who in turn called the police.

Las Pinas City police chief Supt. Armando Pineda served as negotiator and tried to convinve Ernesto to give up. It took him two hours to convince Ernesto to give up, surrender the weapons and let Evelyn go.

NATURE'S REMEDY FOR ARTHRITIS

By: Mario M. Ramirez, M.D.

OSTEOARTHRITIS, the degenerative condition, may finally have met its match. Nature may have provided us with a means to combat this painful and potentially disabling condition. This crippling disease causes severe swelling and pain. The disease process may be so severe that surgery may be warranted so patients can continue with their activities of daily life. The simple process of walking can, as most patients would term it, be "a living hell."

The treatment options were previously limited to surgery and medication with pain killers. Researches centered on new-generation NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs), analgesics with less gastrointestinal side-effects. Recent reports showed that long term use of NSAIDs may be detrimental to the capacity of our body to repair diseased cartilages, thus possibly making the disease process more severe. Coupled with this are the common side-effects of increased risk of gastrointestinal bleeding and GI upset. Yet all these analgesics do nothing to halt the advance of arthritis. Indeed, some researchers believe that these drugs can make it worse.

Glucosamine and Chondroitin Sulphate

A new study may be good news for arthritis sufferers. The study focused on Glucosamine. Published in the Lancet, the study was well designed, lasted three years, and included more than 100 people. The study showed that glucosamine helped slow deterioration of cartilage and relieved pain. A large study on these supplements is underway at the National Institutes of Health, with results expected in two or three years.

Glucosamine and chondroitin sulphate are substances found naturally in the body. Glucosamine is believed to play a role in cartilage formation and repair. Chondroitin sulphate gives cartilage elasticity. Both glucosamine and chondroitin sulphate are sold as dietary or nutritional supplements. They are extracted from animal tissue: glucosamine from crab, lobster or shrimp shells; and chondroitin sulphate from animal cartilage, such as tracheas or shark cartilage.

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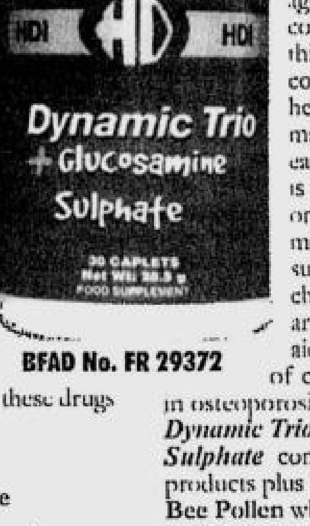

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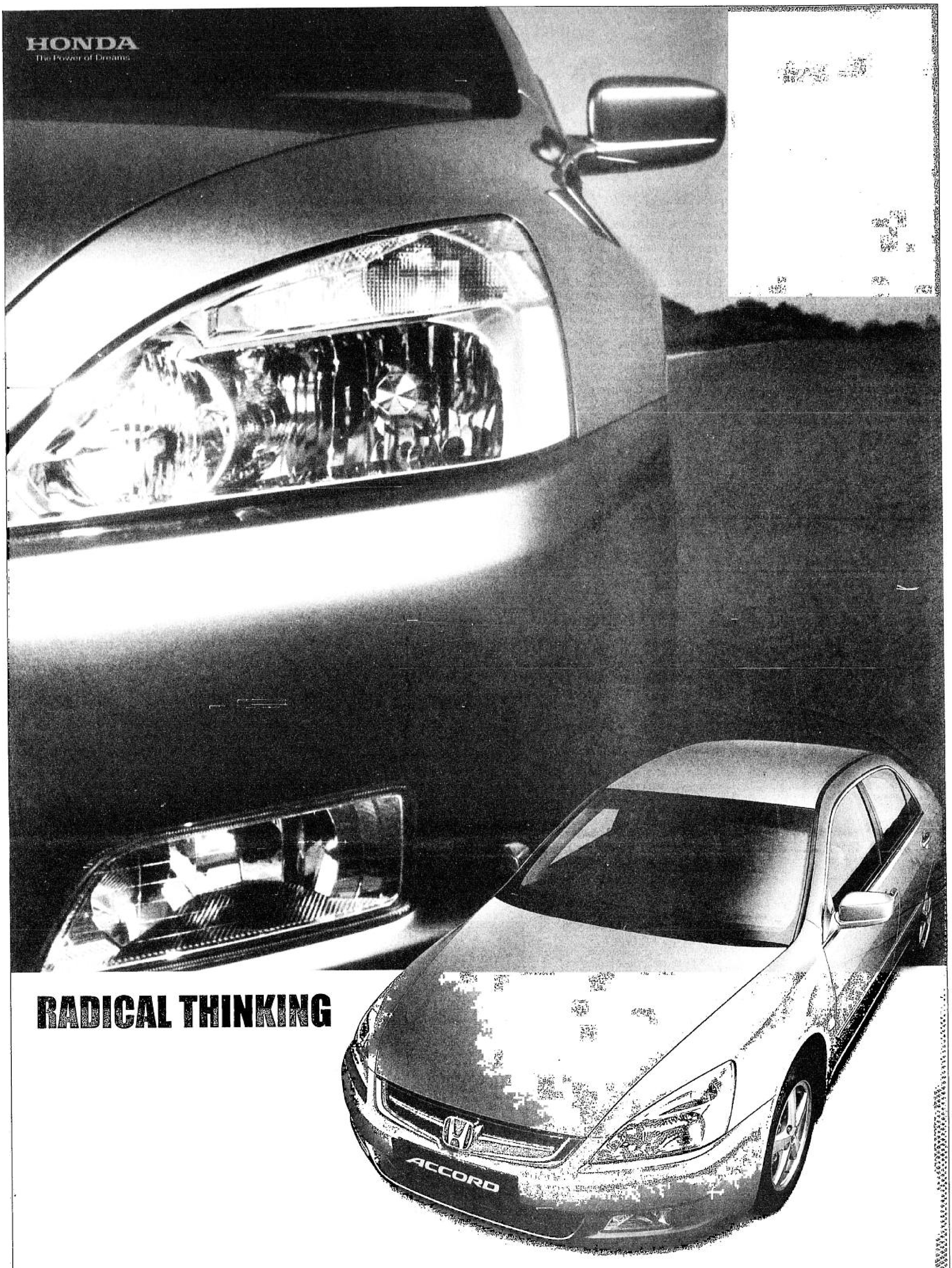

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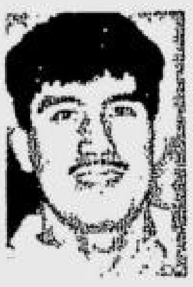
**BASKETBALL:** Silver Stars vs Fever; 8 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports—West meets east in the WNBA as San Antonio battles Indiana. Heat vs Knicks; Game 7; 2000 East Semifinals; 11 a.m. (r-5 p.m.); Solar Sports—Bitter eastern rivals Miami and New York slug it out in this door-die contest three years ago.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Go visits athletics office in high spirits /A22

■ Enrile shines for Knights; Dolphins win /A22



■ NBL stars Qatar-bound /A23

# RP fielding 484 bets in Vietnam

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES will send as many as 484 athletes to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games, the country's biggest in the last three SEAG stagings.

This figure was reached yesterday after the SEAG Task Force, which had already approved 379 athletes for outright inclusion to the national roster, decided to place 105 aspirants on the "conditional list" during its marathon meeting to finalize the size of the RP delegation in the Dec. 5-13 games in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Task Force chair Steve Hontiveros said the large delegation was a result of the addition of more team events and categories in the Vietnam Games, which the country hopes to use as springboard for the 2005 Philippine SEA Games.

"This is also part of the preparation for the 2005 SEA Games which we will host, so we included young athletes who have strong potential to win medals in Vietnam," said Hontiveros.

The country fielded only 258 bets in the 1999 Brunei SEAG and 359 in the 2002 KL Games.

Hontiveros said the 105 athletes on conditional list come from athletics (30), men's and women's basketball (24), traditional boat race (25), men's football (20), women's cycling (4) and swimming (2).

"The idea is to submit more slots to the SEA Games organizers, because it's better to have more than a few slots there," said POC spokesperson Gus Villanueva.

The Task Force has yet to decide on the number of coaches and officials although Hontiveros had already announced that only those who really need to be in Vietnam will be included in the delegation. The usual ratio is one official to two athletes.

The athletics bets will be known only in September after competing in the Asian championships slated in Manila. Under the criteria of at least a silver in the last SEAG, the association is entitled to nominate 30 athletes, although athletics chief Go Teng Kok had said this number would be eventually pruned to about 20.

Hontiveros said basketball failed to submit the 12-member lineup of the men's and women's teams. Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim said the other day the coaching staff has yet to finalize the roster of two squads.

Men's football was given until the end of August to make true its promise to bring in seven Fil-foreign players said to be 20 years and younger and who intend to play for the country until the 2005 Games.

In the case of swimming, association president Chito Ilagan said he has two more swimmers now competing in the world championships in Barcelona, Spain, who can still qualify for the Games.

# Pacquiao's camp rejects hepa report

By Recah Trinidad and Salven Lagumbay

LOS ANGELES, California—The camp of lone Filipino world boxing titleholder Manny Pacquiao yesterday dismissed reports that the champ had hepatitis—and thus could be stripped of his crown.

Reports—supposedly emanating from the California State Boxing Commission—that Pacquiao's urine sample had traces of the hepatitis virus jolted the champ's business manager, Rod Nazario.

Nazario said he suspected sabotage.

He would not let the INQUIRER talk to Pacquiao. He said he did not want the information to "disorient" the champ, who

PACQUIAO/ A22

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# Big RP party seen in Desert Junior Classic

By Jong Arcano

TABUENA: Ahead by six. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

A BIG Philippine party loomed large in the Desert Junior Classic in Palm Springs, California as Miguel Tabuena and Terence Macatangay stormed ahead by six strokes in their respective age groups while Mia Piccio and Debbie de Villa set up an all-Filipino duel for the crown in their division.

Team Philippines braced up for a domination of the tourney's inaugural edition with Tabuena, battling taller and heftier rivals in the boys' 8-9 years division, moving on the brink of another international victory.

Tabuena, the 8-year-old Little Tiger who won the Sarawak International early in the year, broke away from Thai rival Meechi Padungsiriseth with a 9-hole round of 37 at the Landmark Golf Club.

Macatangay continued a solid showing in the boys' 14-15 years at Mission Hills as the La Salle-Lipa standout also raced to a six-shot lead with 147 despite a 76. Charlie Sumner of San Diego carded a 77 to be at 153.

Barring a final-round disaster, the girls' 11-12 years, where Mia P iccio led compatriot Debbie de Villa by two strokes, should be a cinch for the RP contingent.

Piccio shot a 76-148 and will only have de Villa (77-150) to contend with as first-round leader Kimberly Kim of Hawaii faded with a 76.

Two other members of Team Philippines supported in their campaign in the US by Philippine Airlines, Samsung, Airlift Asia and the Philippine Sports Commission are also in the hunt.

Wolen Juan Superal is in the hunt for the boys' 10-11 years title. He was just a shot behind Hawaii's Bradley Shigezawa after a 76-147.

Andrea Legaspi is three shots off American rival Danielle Frasier.

John Kier Abdon moved up to solo fourth in the boys' 12-13 with his 77-152 at the Mission Hills Country Club course.

# Toothpaste firm owner wants out

By June Navarro

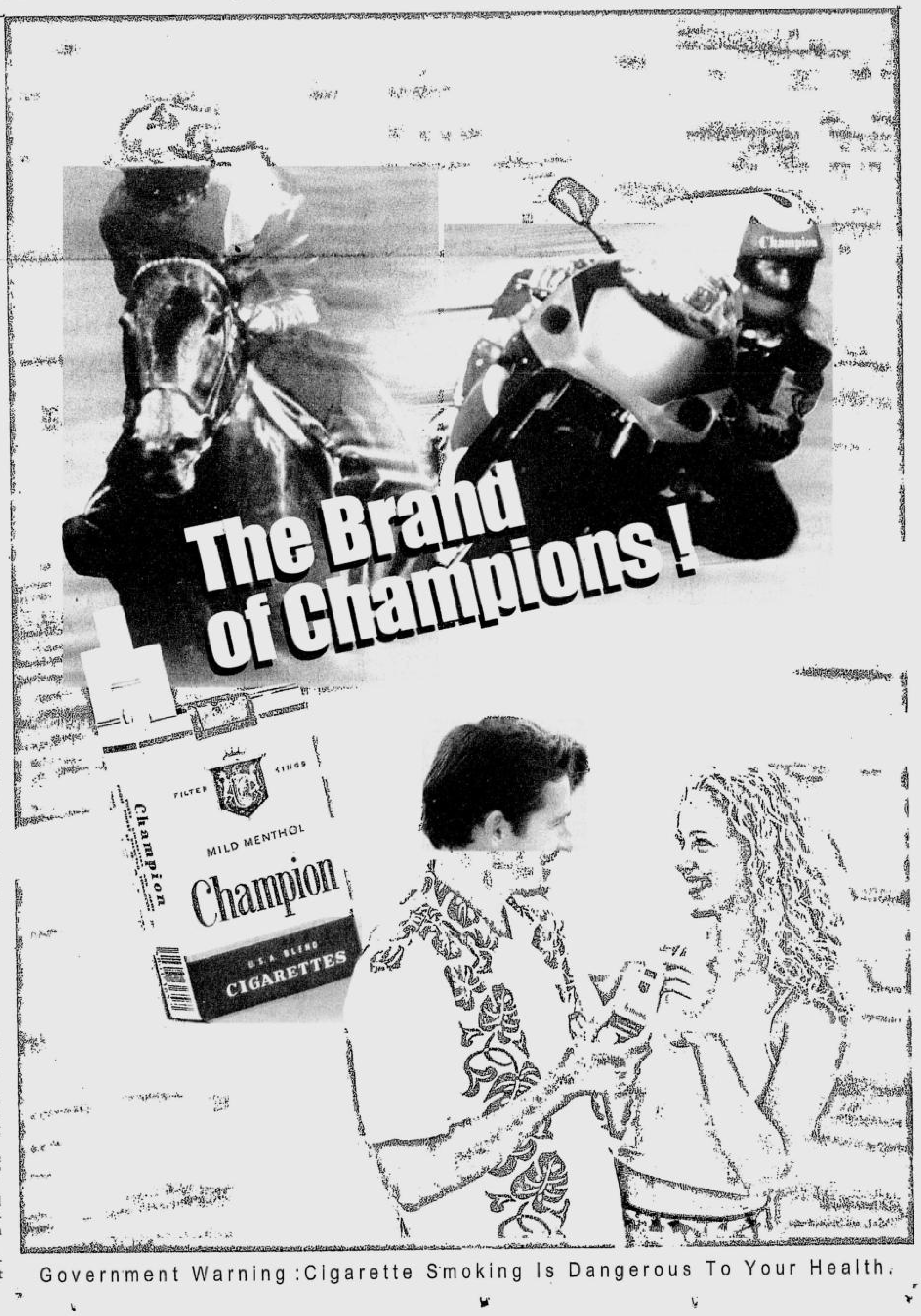
THE OWNER of a local toothpaste brand trapped in the middle of an advertising controversy between the Philippine Basketball Association and Araneta Coliseum wants out.

Beam toothpaste general manager Baby Yao yesterday said she would ask the coliseum to rescind its contract for an ad on the venue's playing area.

"If we only knew that this would happen, we would never enter into a contract with Araneta," said Yao.

She pointed out that Araneta officials and marketing agent Nelson Macaraig of Jonel Promotions approached her to strike a multi-million deal for the placement of its ad.

The PBA had referred to the Beam ad as backdoor advertising and asked Araneta to remove it or the league would hold its games elsewhere.



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ERIK ARAZAS

GO Teng Kok back at the Patafa office.

# Go visits athletics office in high spirits

THE BUNGLED attempt on his life has further bolstered athletics chief Go Teng Kok's fate in God.

"I feel secure now because I have the strongest guardian of all—God," said Go yesterday when he visited the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association offices inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. "I have been very fortunate all my life and sparing me from sudden death was another blessing."

Save for a slight swelling on his right cheek, where two bullets fired by a lone gunman exited on July 1, Go, allowed by his doctors at the St. Luke Medical Center to visit his office, appeared on the way to full recovery.

Wearing his traditional white pants and long-sleeved polo, Go went to the Patafa office to sign important papers and talk with people concerned with the ongoing preparations for the Asian Athletic Association championships to be held at the RMSC in September.

"I trust my staff, I know Patafa is being well-run while I'm recovering," said Go, who was accompanied by a nurse and three bodyguards to the Patafa office, a few steps from where the daylight ambush was staged.

Go, speaking slowly and hoarsely, also reiterated that he's running for a seat in the powerful executive council of the International Amateur Athletic Federation in August.

"After what I've undergone, I feel confident no harm will come my way again, said Go, who left for St. Luke's where he's still confined, at about 4:30 p.m. *Roy Luarca*

# Enrile shines for Knights; Dolphins win

GAMES TOMORROW (*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—SBC vs Mapua (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—CSB vs SSC-R (srs/jrs)

**By June Navarro**

SAVING the Letran Knights from the brink of disaster is fast becoming the trademark of Ronjay Enrile.

Scoring seven straight points at crunchtime, Enrile again lifted the Knights to a come-from-behind win yesterday, this time a 68-66 decision over the Perpetual Help-Rizal Altas in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Enrile's heroics pushed the Knights to their fourth victory in six outings while dooming the faltering Altas to their fourth consecutive setback after a 2-0 start.

The Knights went on to claim a piece of the lead after the Philippine Christian Dolphins repulsed the Jose Rizal Bombers, 69-63.

The loss also dropped the Bombers to 4-2 like the San Beda Lions and the Mapua Cardinals. The Dolphins improved to 3-3.

The Knights, who trailed by 20 points in the third quarter, deadlocked the count for the last time at 66 on a putback by Enrile before Dale Santos scored on a fastbreak for the marginal basket.

Dom Javier had a chance to send the game into overtime after he was fouled with two seconds left. But he failed to convert his first free throw, forcing him to intentionally miss the second one for a possible follow-up.

However, time ran out on the Altas even before they can recover the rebound.

The Squires provided a great appetizer for the Knights after routing the Altalettes, 96-68, in the curtain raiser.

In the other junior match, the PCU Baby Dolphins downed the Light Bombers, 66-59, to improve its record to 2-4.

**Scores:**

**Second Game (srs)**

**LETRAN 68**—Enrile 16, Aldave 13, Rodriguez 12, Bautista 7, Reyes 6, Santos 5, Fedelicio 2, Anabo 1, Ebajay 0.

**UPHR 66**—Javier 21, Cuenco 11, Joe 10, Balboa 6, Burgos 5, Misa 4, Bolin 4, Quiazon 3, Santos 2, Barnson 0.

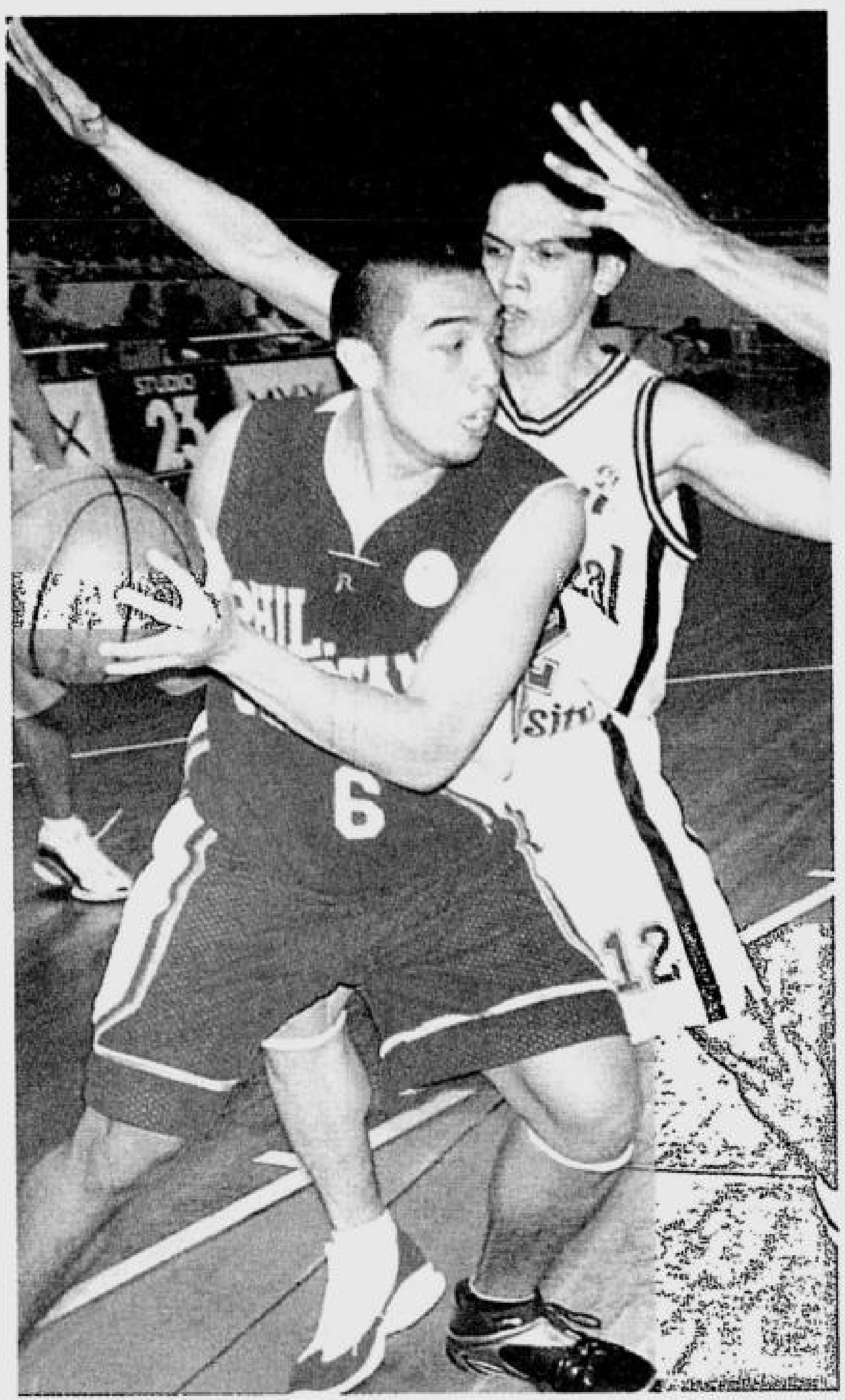
**Quarters:** 17-22, 25-43, 46-57, 68-66.

**Third Game (srs)**

**PCU 69**—Roque 19, Garrido 18, Guiyab 12, Cecilia 8, Retaga 6, Sanz 4, Salangsang 2, Benitez 0, Castro 0.

**JRU 63**—Te 15, Fajardo 9, Coyukang 8, Santos 6, Borboran 6, Domangcas 6, Serios 4, Jorge 2, De Vera 2, Attunaga 0.

**Quarters:** 15-23, 33-34, 52-50, 69-63


PCU's Joseph Roque (left) tries to shake off JRU's Lester Mark Lindaya during their NCAA game yesterday. RUDY ESPERAS

# UE Warriors, Archers clash for share of early lead

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| FEU | 3 | 0 |
| La Salle | 2 | 0 |
| UE | 2 | 0 |
| UST | 1 | 2 |
| Ateneo | 1 | 2 |
| NU | 1 | 2 |
| Adamson | 0 | 2 |
| UP | 0 | 2 |

**GAMES TODAY**
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
11 a.m.—UP vs Adamson (Jrs); 2 p.m.—UP vs Adamson (Srs); 4 p.m.—UE vs La Salle (Srs); 6 p.m.—UE vs La Salle (Jrs)

UNIVERSITY of the East coach Boyzie Zamar admits it's hard measuring up to La Salle, whose passion for basketball excellence remains the envy of many in the UAAP.

"I looked at the records and wasn't really surprised to find out that in my two years as UE coach, I scored just a single win in four meetings with La Salle," said Zamar.

Make it four, coach Boyzie. The Red Warriors, minus James Yap, also bowed to the Green Archers, who did not field Mark Cardona, in the last Fr. Martin's Cup.

This year, however, may be different. After being relegated to the sidelines for more than a decade, UE looks ripe for a return trip to the top, a distinction it last held in 1984-85, when Zamar was still a part of the Warriors backcourt.

UE starts its quest for redemption when it battles La Salle at 4 p.m. today, after the 2 p.m. clash between winless University of the Philippines and Adamson at the Big Dome.

"La Salle isn't playing like a team full of rookies. It has character and it plays under a very effective system. To win, my players must be very aggressive," noted Zamar.

UE and La Salle share second place with identical two straight wins. Far Eastern is on top with an immaculate 3-0 card. *Dennis U. Eroa*

# 'Lucky punch could stop me'

**By Recah Trinidad**

**LOS ANGELES, California—Manny Pacquiao continued to enjoy the luxury of a regular rice meal yesterday as he entered the final two days of preparations for the defense of his world superbantamweight boxing title.**

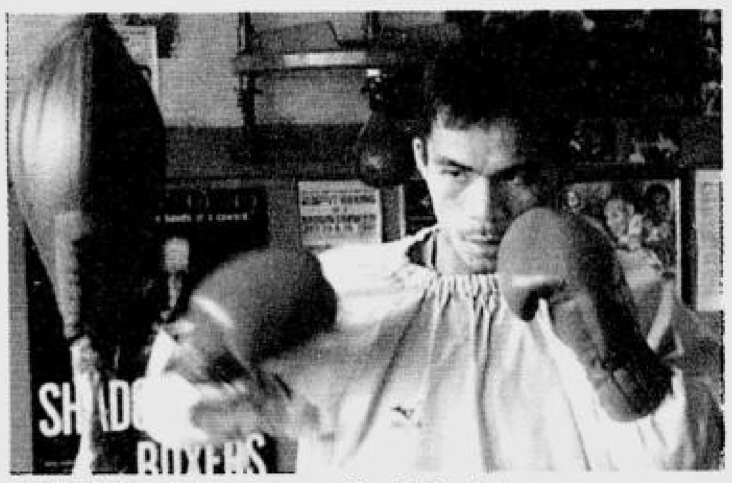
His training around Hollywood here has also been flawless, trouble-free.

After a rigid two-hour workout at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym, Pacquiao assured the INQUIRER he was 100-percent ready.

He indeed looked super sharp doing the varied afternoon exercises, a display that sent Macka Folley, acting gym supervisor, swearing "Pacquiao is the best fighter in the world."

Pacquiao's handlers, very, very pleased, were one in saying there's only one unlikely factor that could spoil his defense of the International Boxing Federation superbantamweight crown here this Saturday (Sunday in Manila).

Only a lucky punch, said the handlers, could stop the lone reigning Filipino world boxing champion.



**PACQUIAO works on the speed bag in Roach's gym.** BONG MALABANAN

"*Disgrasya lamang, baka masabitan* (Only an accident, an unseen punch)," said business manager Rod Nazario, an observation shared by experts Moy Lainez and Lito Mondejar.

Even trainer Buboy Fernandez, who admitted he could hardly cope with Paquiao's speed and power during yesterday's punishing regimen, said only a stray blow could wreck everything for Team Pacquiao here.

Pacquiao himself is confided he could not do anything about the lucky punch. This is the reason he has not dared make any prediction, he explained.

"*Sasabihin mo mananalo ka sa knockout, sunod nasabit. Paano ka haharap sa tao* (You predict a knockout, then you lose, how would you explain it," he said.

Of course, falling to the unseen spoiler is farthest from his mind, explained Pacquiao, and added that he, in fact, feels particularly blessed.

Somebody up there likes him, Pacquiao said.

"*Lahat ng ito sa Kanya nanggaling. Siya ang may gustong mag-champion ako* (All this came from Him)," the champ said.

Pacquiao also made it clear that, above everything, he's dedicating the fourth defense of his IBF crown to his Creator.

All the gifts he has, they all came from God, he repeated.

With only two pounds to shed before Friday's weigh-in, Pacquiao said he continues to eat full meals.

Of course, he would have to skip dinner on Thursday in order to make the 122-lb division limit.

Pacquiao is also looking to relink with trainer Freddie Roach, who had to leave his gym chores here to be with Brian Viloria, who was scheduled to fight in Northern California yesterday.

After this title bout, Pacquiao said he would pursue a sketchy offer, reportedly made by HBO, for him to fight world featherweight king Marco Antonio Barrera.

He was not exactly bored with his division, although he has been having a tough time making the weight limit. But what he really wanted is Barrera's head, Pacquiao said.

"*Kaya ko 'yan* (I can handle him)," he said.

# Asuncions head elite roster in JVC Open

THE COUNTRY'S finest shuttlers battle it out again when the 2003 JVC Open Badminton Championships reel off on Aug. 25 at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

Siblings Kennevic and Kenny Asuncion, who will carry the country's colors in the world badminton championships in England this month, head the cast of title pretenders in the five-division championships.

The week-long event, sponsored by JVC and supported by the International Management Group, will also have brackets for players 18 years old and below and 14 years and under, as well as divisions for veterans (35-over) and celebrities.

"We're happy to be at the forefront of this championship that, in the past staging, generated so much interest from both the players and the spectators," said Toshinori Yokokawa, president of JVC Philippines.

# Pacquiao's camp rejects . . .

From page A21

is in the thick of preparation for his title defense.

"We are not telling Manny about the report," Nazario said. "I suspect sabotage."

The manager said Pacquiao had just returned from his routine early-morning jog near his hotel and was cooling down in the shower.

The report said Pacquiao faces the specter of losing his world crown after failing the hepatitis test conducted Monday by an accredited physician from the California boxing commission in Los Angeles.

It said urine samples taken from the IBF champ showed traces of the hepatitis virus.

A urine test on the champion and his challenger is a mandatory medical requirement in any world championship bout.

But the Pacquiao camp said they were "most surprised" by the report.

Nazario said they have not received any official communication from fight officials about Pacquiao failing the blood test.

"He's in the pink of health for the fight. We are most surprised. We are just playing it by ear."

The INQUIRER was trying to reach the California State Boxing Commission and fight organizers for confirmation at presstime.

# The case of Cris Ramos

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

WHEN is good good? When is bad bad?

I pose the question to illustrate the case of Cris Ramos, whose rank as Navy captain, in case you've forgotten, is equivalent to colonel in the army.

No, this piece has nothing to do with military restiveness.

This is about golf, fellas.

This is about something weird hitting the golf world, much like Tiger Woods needing level par in the last four holes of the British Open to force a playoff. Two errant tee shots derailed that as they resulted to two bogeys. Woods, the world No. 1, tied for third as he finished two shots behind fellow American Ben Curtis, ranked 396th (not 327th) in the world before winning golf's most coveted trophy on Sunday.

Cris Ramos was not playing golf when he lost a battle he had all the chances to win.

Alas, the very same people who were his own betrayed him.

Who said the code words of fraternal loyalty still existed?

Think again, fellas.

Men in uniform threw their own to the lions.

The very same men Cris had hoped to protect him fed him to a pack of wolves.

All because Cris was enforcing the rules to the letter.

Cris Ramos wasn't even a year into his job as manager of the Philippine Navy Golf Club. In just a few months, the course was spic-and-span. From tee to green, it's good grooming at its best.

Under his watch, you rarely see a weed protruding from tee boxes.

The greens are truer than true.

The fairways are almost manicured to perfection even Queen Elizabeth's well-polished nails would pale in comparison.

For this, how many of Villamor's old timers have switched loyalties, if not memberships, to the Navy course?

What was Cris Ramos' secret of success?

One word: Discipline.

Alas, it was Cris Ramos' own secret of success that did him in. His own kind kicked him in the butt and next kicked him out of office in obedience not of laws governing men but of laws of the lynching mob.

What an irony.

Oh, yes, Cris Ramos had mistakes, if they could be called that.

Like, once he suspended a caddie for disregarding a "Do Not Enter" sign posted on a teeing ground under repair.

If you call that a mistake, I guess it's right to say, yes, the world is flat.

And, once he scolded an employee in front of a big crowd.

A mistake?

Take this: Did President Macapagal-Arroyo err when she scolded both Airport chief Edgar Manda and LTO head Bobby Lastimoso in public?

You tell me.

Cris Ramos has a temper that soon earned him the moniker, "Hitler."

I don't mind being called that if it meant producing positive results, as in the case of Cris Ramos.

But not to Cris Ramos' colleagues, though. They bowed to complaints of Navy golf employees and transformed themselves from a sensible collegial body to a detestable kangaroo court, ousting Cris Ramos in one fell swoop.

It was worse than seeing Tiger Woods lose his tee shot en route to a triple bogey 7 in Round 1 of the last British Open. He missed the crown by 2 shots.

Cris Ramos was never charged with negligence, dereliction of duty, not even petty theft, physical violence or even acts of lasciviousness. His only crime, if it can be called that, was his being too strict in enforcing the rules of the club. For that, he lost his job.

And I thought the military is the best shaper of the most disciplined peoples on earth.

I'm not surprised anymore why some military men have become restive these days.

I wonder where Cris Ramos is now. If he is presently preoccupied reading Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "No One Writes to The Colonel," I raise a glass to that.

Good reading, Fuhrer.

## SPORTSWATCH

### GenSan basketball camp

DAYÓNG J. Mendoza, assistant coach of the Philippine Youth Basketball Team, will conduct a basketball camp for boys and girls on Sunday, July 27, at the Lagao Gym in General Santos City through the auspices of GenSan Mayor Pedro Acharon. Mendoza, carrying the principles of the highly successful, city- and province-hopping ASM Basketball cage camp last summer, will be assisted by Clem Asensio, Ernesto Nanali and Jun Allera of the GenSan Sports & Youth Development, and coaches from Trinity, Notre Dame and Quantum. For details, call 09193188511.

### La Salle Greenhills routs Don Bosco

LA SALLE Greenhills opened its title-retention bid with a 75-35 crushing of Don Bosco Makati, 75-35, last Sunday at the start of the Milo Best SBP/Passerelle basketball tournament at the St. Benedict College courts. Four other schools—Xavier Community Learners, Lourdes (Mandaluyong), Ateneo and St. Mary's College—triumphed in the SBP division. Xavier ripped Marist School, 67-42; COL downed Paref-Northfield School, 31-27; Lourdes whipped JASMS, 60-22; Ateneo clobbered De La Salle Zobel, 72-31 and St. Mary's spilled Lourdes (QC), 56-27, in the other games. Ateneo produced the most lopsided victory in the Passerelle group, outclassing Marist, 102-47. Other Passerelle matches saw UST trim Lourdes (QC), 69-66; Xavier nip School of St. Anthony, 60-57, and La Salle rip Don Bosco Makati.

### Domanais, Hinojales top Darterong Pinoy

TOP-RANKED players Joseph Domanais of Burlington and Jan-Jan Hinojales of Robson swept the Open Singles and Ladies' Singles, respectively, of the recent Sportshouse 20th Anniversary P100,000 Darterong Pinoy Free Registration Dart Festival at the Pearl Plaza Mall in Parañaque City. Highlights of the tournament will be telecast over IBC 13 on July 27 at 3 p.m., according to NDFP president Tito Soncuya.

### Ullrich insists he's still in title hunt

PAU, France—Jan Ullrich's fighting spirit still burns bright despite Lance Armstrong's explosive resurgence in the Tour de France, setting the stage for a gripping finish. The 29-year-old German insisted Tuesday he was still a force to reckon with and not about to give up. Ullrich has nipped at the heels of the four-time champion for much of the three-week Tour, trouncing him in an individual time trial last Friday and racing ahead on the first of four stages in the punishing Pyrenees. Armstrong leads Ullrich by 67 seconds. *AP*

### ₱1 million at stake in Las Piñas derby

A CASH prize of P1 million will be at stake in the "LPC Annual 6-Stag Derby" slated Aug 25-27 at the Las Piñas Cockpit. Screening of stags will start Wednesday, Aug. 1. Entry fee is P15,000 while minimum bet is P11,000. The champions will also get three refrigerators. Derby sponsors are Pagcor Casino Filipino and Lakpue Drug Inc. For details, contact 871-4343 and 871-4345 (Daisy) or 873-1040 (LPC).

### Submission of entries set tomorrow

SUBMISSION of entries for the "Laban O Lugon 4—Cock Derby" will be tomorrow at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. The derby will start at 2 p.m. on Saturday with more than 140 fights lined up. Entries will be accepted from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. and interested parties may contact 833-2275 and 833-1638. Derby host is Rolly Ligon.

**BIG KICK**

**PSC chair Eric Buhain kicks the training bag held by former taekwondo champion Monsour del Rosario during the opening of Peak Sports' main store at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex along M. Adriatico St., Malate Manila. Watching from left are Philippine Taekwondo Association vice president Sung Chon Hong and national coaches Jesus "Joebet" Morales III and Ricky Santiago.**

### RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Headliner 2. Ocean Wings

Race 2—1. Plaridel Hero/Kagilagilalas 2. Star Material 3. Hukom 4. Master Professor 5. Caballero

Race 3—1. Super Cool 2. E-Mail 3. Flying Strike 4. Slew's Pleasure 5. Eye of the Day

Race4—1. King Aldrin 2. Sir Louie 3. Like A Prince 4. Precious Time 5. Jellbeanjoy

Race 5—1. Sacred Hall 2. Bumper to Bumper 3. Might and Power

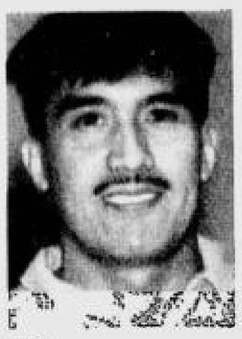
Race 6—1. Romario 2. Real Gem 3. Hazitmade 4. Suterian Era 5. Absurd

Race 7—1. Bulakeña 2. Earl Gray 3. Hasty 4. Aba Aba Aba 5. Highly Connected

Race 8—1. Salt Lake City 2. Hong Kong Girl 3. Wily Waw 4. Kantayok 5. Sham Sham

Race 9—1. Innovation 2. Chances Are 3. Early Warning 4. Eightwoconnection 5. Assunta de Rio

# NBL stars Qatar-bound



LIM

THE NATIONAL Basketball League selection will represent the Philippines in the Qatar Invitational Tournament from July 30 to Aug. 6.

To be known as "Team Philippines-Spring Lhuillier," it will be led by PBA legendary Skywalker Avelino "Samboy" Lim and reinforced by seven-time PBA Best Import Bobby Parks and former MBA Star Jeffrey Flowers.

Tapped to handle the team is veteran Cebuano mentor Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba, who steered M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala-Cebu to the 1st NBL National Championship with an 11-win, 1-loss record.

He'll be assisted by Ricky Magallanes of Spring Cooking Oil-Bulacan and Ramon Alcoseba as athletic trainer and liaison officer.

Acting as delegation head and team manager is NBL secretary general Tito Palma, who thanked team owners Michel Lhuillier of M. Lhuillier and Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla for giving their all-out support to the national interest.

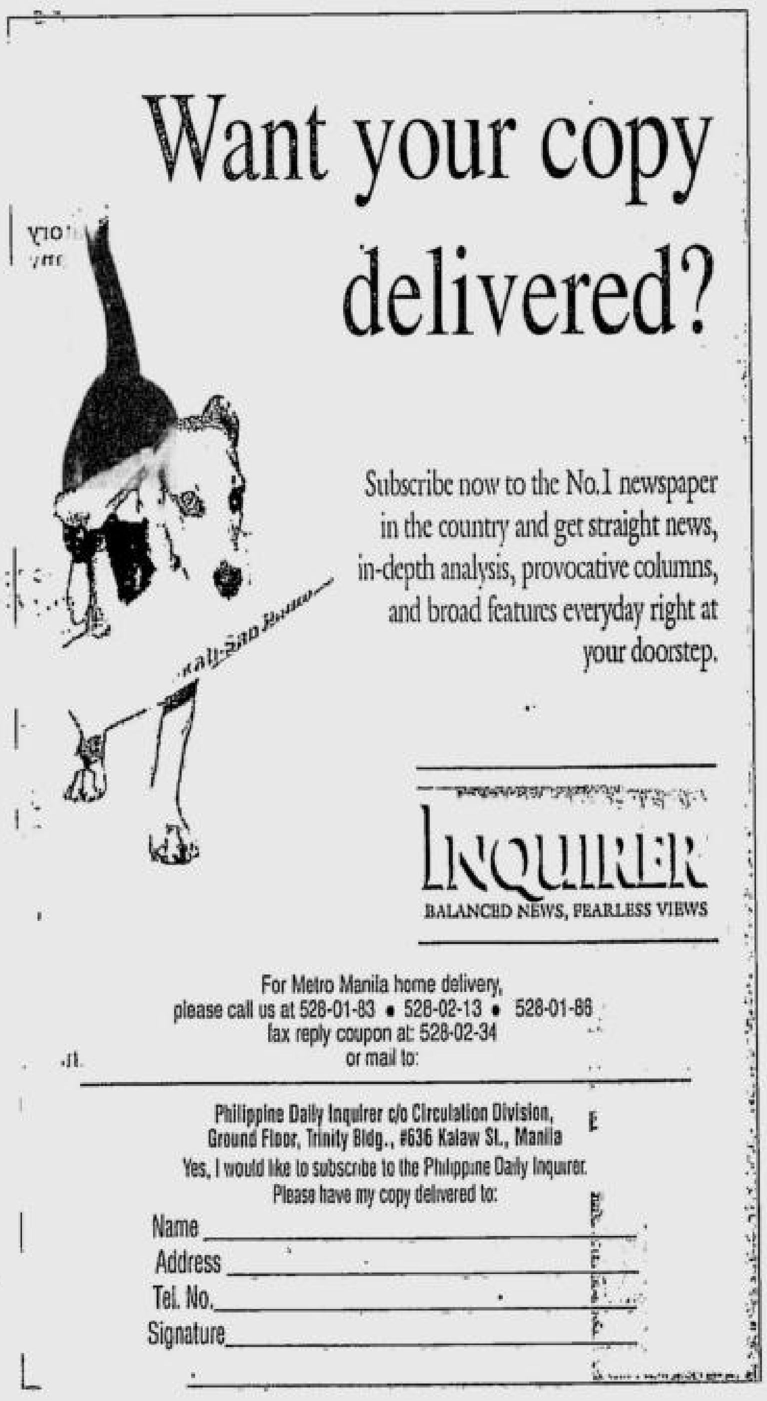
The Philippines will be going up against a tough field, including the national teams of Jordan, Iran and Qatar in the event.

Among those tapped for the team are Spring Cooking Oil's Mario Reyes, Rodel Manuel, Bernard Tanpua and Rolly Menor, and M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala's Aldrich Reyes, Arnold Rodriguez, Reuben de la Rosa, Aldrin Ocanada and Darryl Smith.

The NBL will also take part in the 5th Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) Men's Invitational Championship to be hosted by Cebu City from Aug. 18-23 as guest entry.

Meanwhile, Dave Cabrera scored eight points in the overtime period to lift Compak Shineway-Ozamiz past Forward Taguig, 98-77, Monday night in the 1st NBL national championship at the Talisay gym here.

The 6-foot-1 Cabrera finished with 19 points, three rebounds and three assists as Compak raised its record to 6-6 in the tourney sponsored by Tanduay Rhum, Air Philippines, PCSO, Panasonic, Cebu Ferries, SuperCat, Gatorade, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, BJ Star Logistics, The Freeman, Sinners and Saints, Jaguar KTV and Molten Basketballs.



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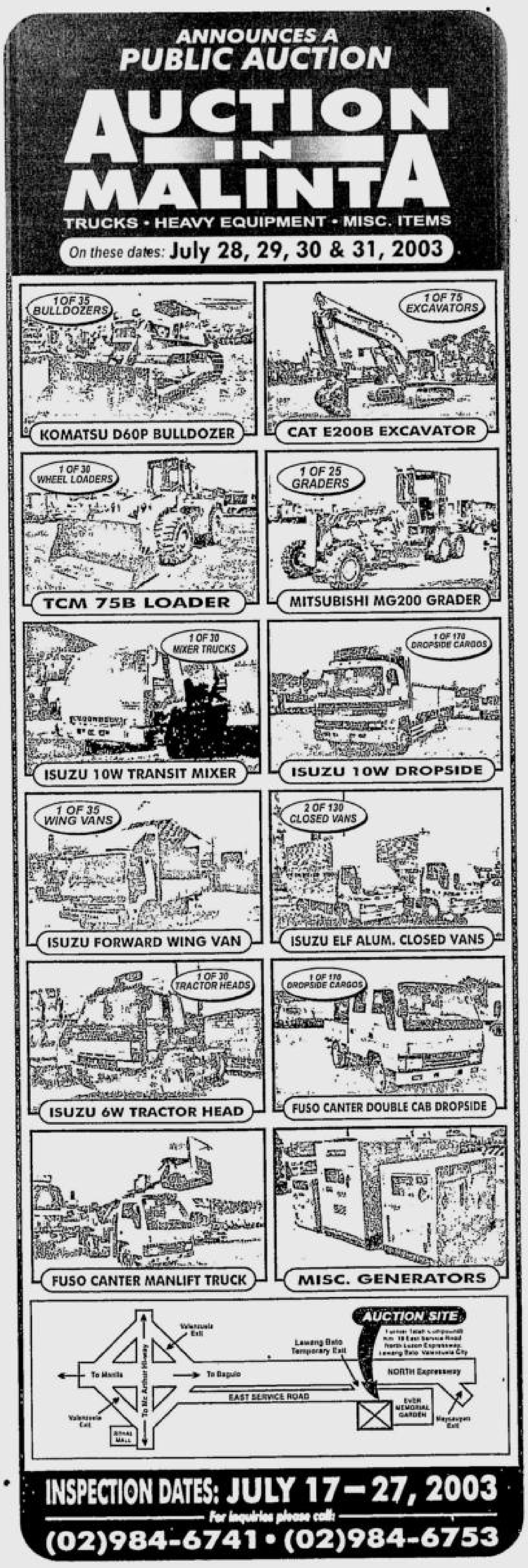

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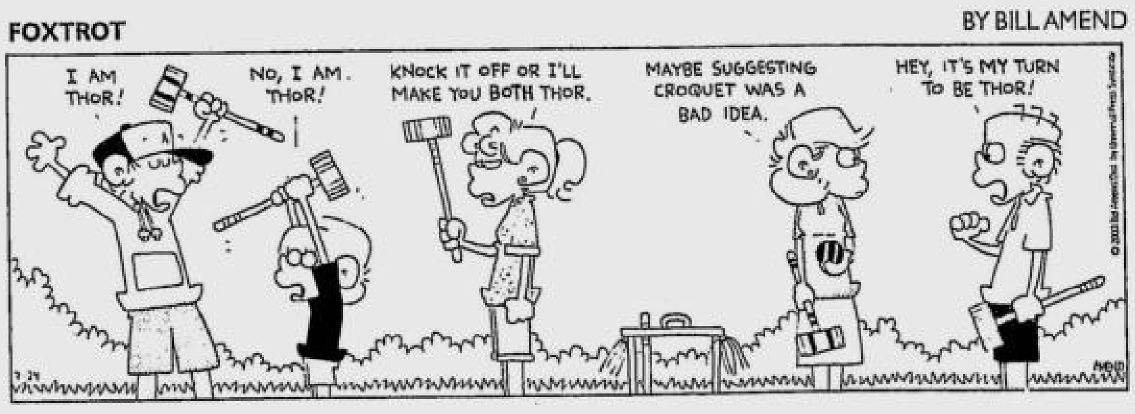
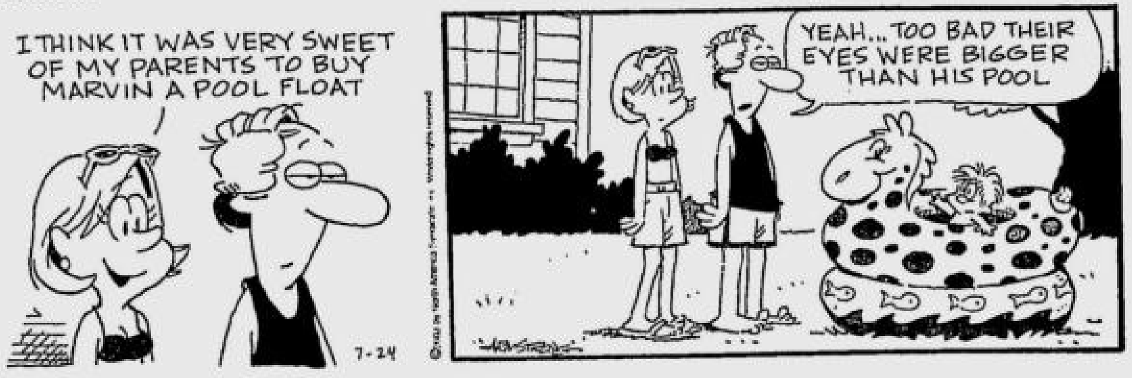
### FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I AM THOR!
NO, I AM. THOR!
KNOCK IT OFF OR I'LL MAKE YOU BOTH THOR.
MAYBE SUGGESTING CROQUET WAS A BAD IDEA.
HEY, IT'S MY TURN TO BE THOR!
7-24

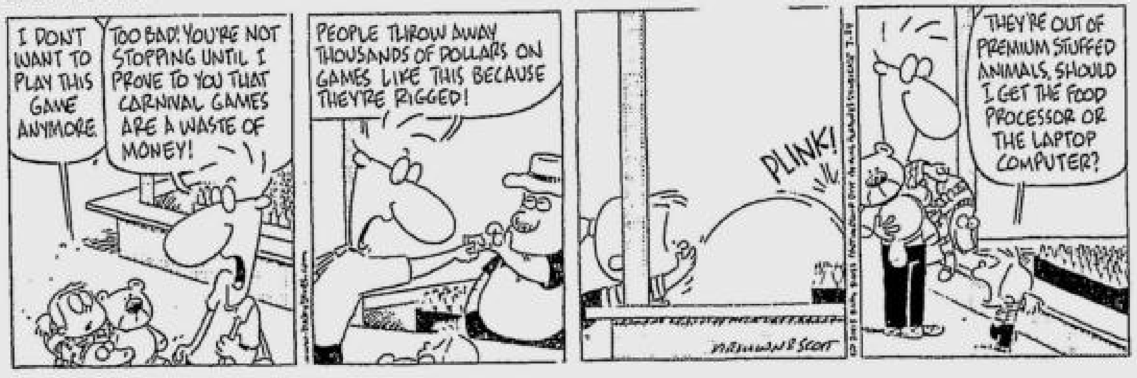
### MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I THINK IT WAS VERY SWEET OF MY PARENTS TO BUY MARVIN A POOL FLOAT
YEAH... TOO BAD THEIR EYES WERE BIGGER THAN HIS POOL
7-24

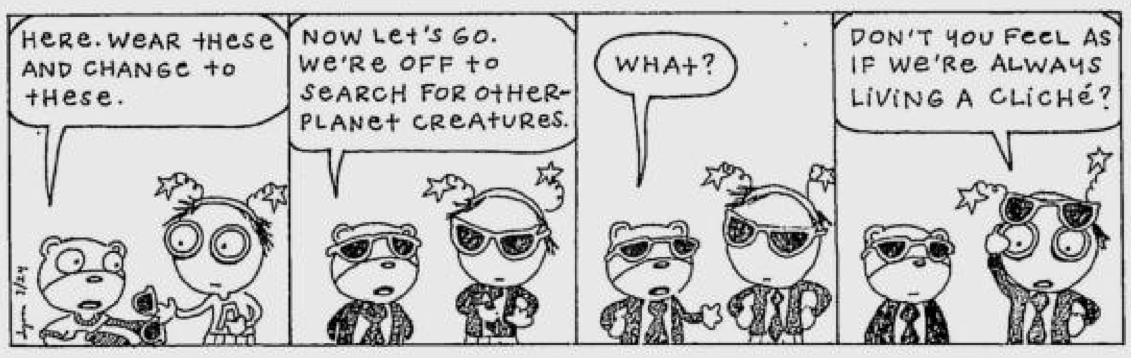
### BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I DON'T WANT TO PLAY THIS GAME ANYMORE.
TOO BAD! YOU'RE NOT STOPPING UNTIL I PROVE TO YOU THAT CARNIVAL GAMES ARE A WASTE OF MONEY!
PEOPLE THROW AWAY THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS ON GAMES LIKE THIS BECAUSE THEY'RE RIGGED!
PLINK!
THEY'RE OUT OF PREMIUM STUFFED ANIMALS. SHOULD I GET THE FOOD PROCESSOR OR THE LAPTOP COMPUTER?

### ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Here. Wear these and change to these.
Now let's go. We're off to search for other-planet creatures.
What?
Don't you feel as if we're always living a cliché?

# HOROSCOPE

**BY FRANCIS DRAKE**

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You love daring adventure! You want an exciting life. Others are attracted to your magnetic personality. You are very aware of the impression you give your audience. Although some consider you to be eccentric, you live with flair. Important elements of your life will end this year to make room for fresh, new cycles.
**Birthdate of:** Jennifèr Lopez, singer/actress; Amelia Earhart, aviator; Anna Paquin, actress.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** Your curiosity about practically everything is aroused today. Talk to strangers, visit bookstores, explore the Internet and try to learn something new. You will enjoy this.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** This is a good day to go shopping or to sign contracts, negotiate deals and do business. Your mind is clear and sharp. You know what you're doing.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** The Moon is in your sign today, and this gives you a little edge over everybody else. Business is favored. It's the perfect time to shop for goodies for yourself and loved ones.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** You need a little time to be by yourself today. It will help ground you so that you know what you're doing. Important financial transactions are taking place now.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Conversations with a friend (likely a female) are particularly enjoyable today. Others find you to be witty and entertaining. You, in turn, enjoy being admired and the center of attention.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Discussions with a boss or parent are a good idea today. You will find it easy to be diplomatic yet assertive about your own ideas. By all means, speak up!

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** You have a faint longing for escape today. You want to do something different. What you really want is fresh adventure and the chance to learn something new. Give yourself an opportunity to do this.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Be bold in stating your case to others. It's all right to defend your own best interests. If you don't take care of them, who will?

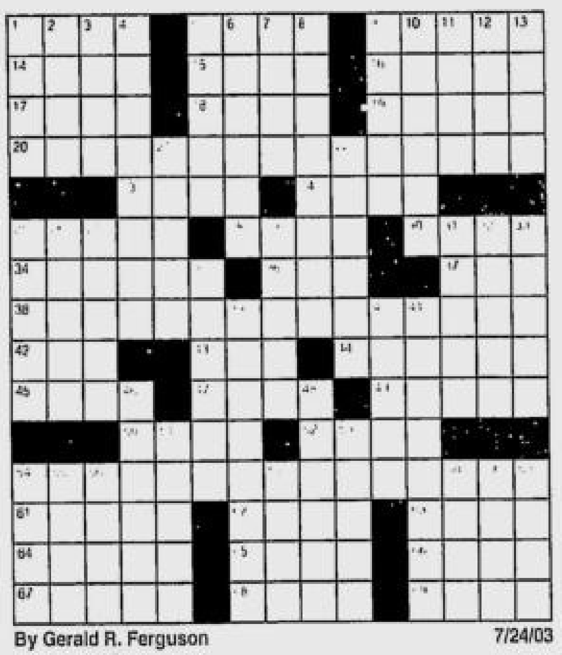
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Conversations about philosophy, politics and religion are stimulating today. Since you are a philosopher by nature, you definitely have opinions about these subjects.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** This is a good day to organize matters connected with bookkeeping, accounting and shared assets. Clear up any loose details that bother you. Make sure you get your fair share.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Flirtations from unexpected sources secretly please you today. They might be harmless; nevertheless, they're certainly a boost to your ego! And there's nothing wrong with that.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** You are unusually aggressive now, because you're so determined to get organized. Nevertheless, take some time out for heart-to-heart discussions with a family member.

# DAILY CROSSWORD



By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR

7/24/03

ACROSS
1 Sch. mil. grp.
5 "Sweeney __"
9 Aussie's pals
14 Indian nanny
15 Continuously
16 Small type size
17 Kismet
18 Yellow-billed rail
19 Sloughs off feathers
20 P.T. Barnum's road show
23 __ my lips!
24 NL stadium
25 God's blood
28 Satisfy fully
30 Actress Thompson
34 Unification Church member
36 Speller's contest
37 60-min. units
38 Extinct bird
42 Paris summer
43 Blue Hen St.
44 Orton play, "Entertaining Mr. __"
45 Itemization
47 Teensy
49 Fast-food request
50 Mandlikova of tennis
52 Fifth of MXXX
54 High-wire family act
61 Directed, as a weapon
62 Zone
63 Son of Eliel Saarinen
64 Speculative genre, briefly
65 Little woofs
66 Deli side dish
67 To the point
68 Eve's youngest
69 Transgressions

DOWN
1 Simple boat
2 Poet Khayyam
3 Casual farewell
4 Military insignias
5 Magnetic unit
6 Egg-shaped objects
7 "Wild at Heart" star Laura
8 Don Garlits or Shirley Muldowney
9 Mrs. Eisenhower
10 Greek markets
11 Drying powder
12 Caesar's question to Brutus
13 Hr. with a shrink
21 Spine-tingling
22 Chicks' calls
25 Drive forward
26 Raccoon's kin
27 Firemen's carries?
29 Tasman and Muzorewa
31 Out in front
32 Buzz
33 "Lou Grant" star
35 Upshot
39 Escapes
40 Tom T. Hall hit
41 Bloody state
46 Genet's "The __ Journal"
48 Called
51 Ms. MacDowell
53 Butt heads
54 On the double
55 Human parasites
56 Norse giant
57 Racer Luyendyk
58 Cold-cut palace
59 Islands off Galway
60 Plants

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | A | R | E | ■ | A | L | A | S | ■ | M | A | G | M | A |
| L | I | O | N | ■ | W | A | R | E | ■ | A | T | L | A | S |
| A | D | D | T | O | A | P | I | G | G | Y | B | A | N | K |
| B | A | S | E | H | I | T | ■ | A | U | B | A | D | E | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | R | O | T | O | R | ■ | L | E | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| P | A | R | K | ■ | S | P | E | L | L | ■ | S | T | A | T |
| A | L | O | E | S | ■ | ■ | A | Y | E | S | ■ | R | I | O |
| C | O | P | Y | A | F | I | L | E | T | O | D | I | S | K |
| T | H | E | ■ | D | R | A | T | ■ | ■ | D | O | L | L | Y |
| S | A | S | H | ■ | E | M | O | T | E | ■ | O | I | F | O |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | O | D | E | ■ | R | O | V | E | R | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| S | U | N | R | O | O | F | ■ | M | A | R | K | O | F | F |
| W | R | E | S | T | F | R | O | M | D | A | N | G | E | R |
| A | S | S | E | T | ■ | E | R | I | E | ■ | O | L | D | E |
| P | A | T | S | Y | ■ | D | E | E | D | ■ | B | E | S | T |

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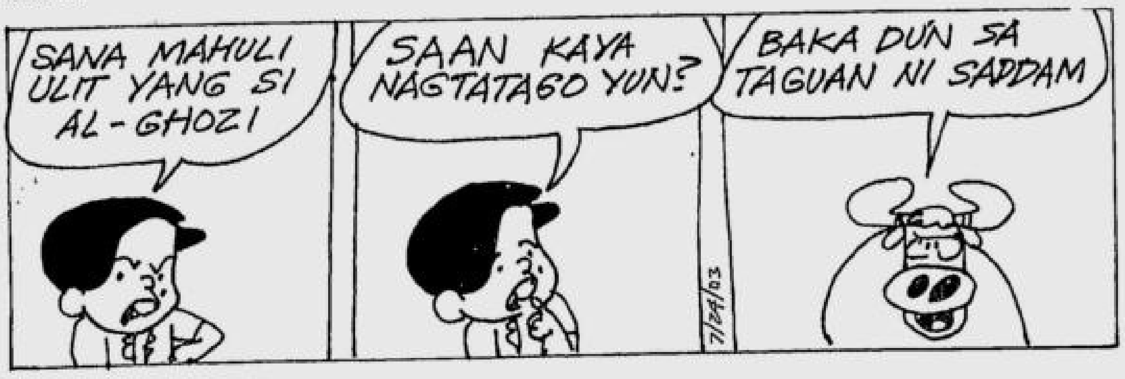
7/24/03

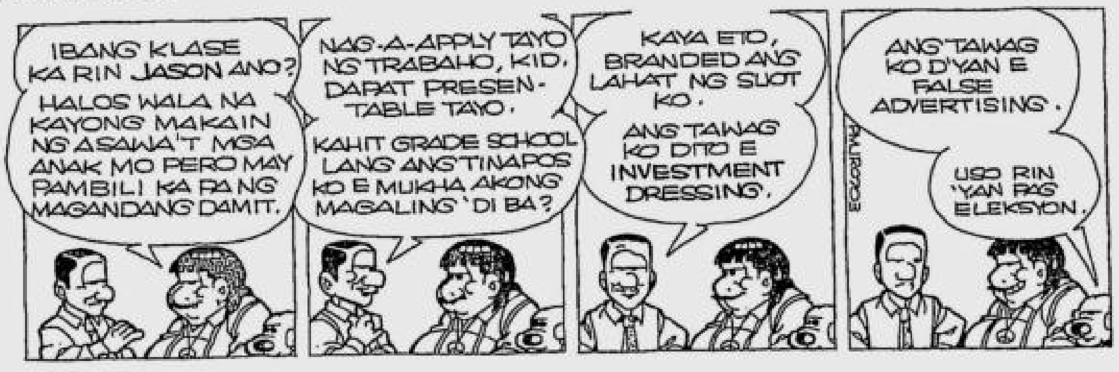
### A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SANA MAHULI ULIT YANG SI AL-GHOZI
SAAN KAYA NAGTATAGO YUN?
BAKA DUN SA TAGUAN NI SADDAM
7/24/03

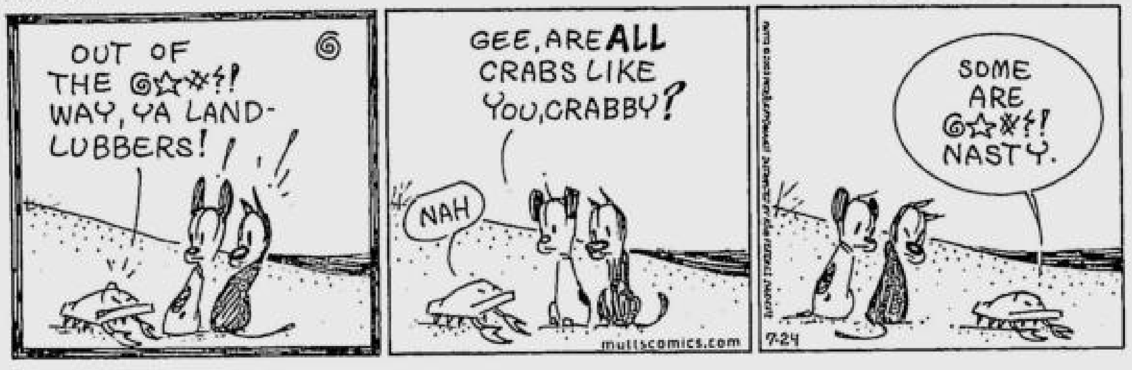
### PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


IBANG KLASE KA RIN JASON ANO?
HALOS WALA NA KAYONG MAKAIN NG ASAWA'T MGA ANAK MO PERO MAY PAMBILI KA PA NG MAGANDANG DAMIT.
NAG-A-APPLY TAYO NG TRABAHO, KID. DAPAT PRESENTABLE TAYO.
KAHIT GRADE SCHOOL LANG ANG TINAPOS KO E MUKHA AKONG MAGALING 'DI BA?
KAYA ETO, BRANDED ANG LAHAT NG SUOT KO.
ANG TAWAG KO DITO E INVESTMENT DRESSING.
ANG TAWAG KO D'YAN E FALSE ADVERTISING.
USO RIN 'YAN PAG ELEKSYON.

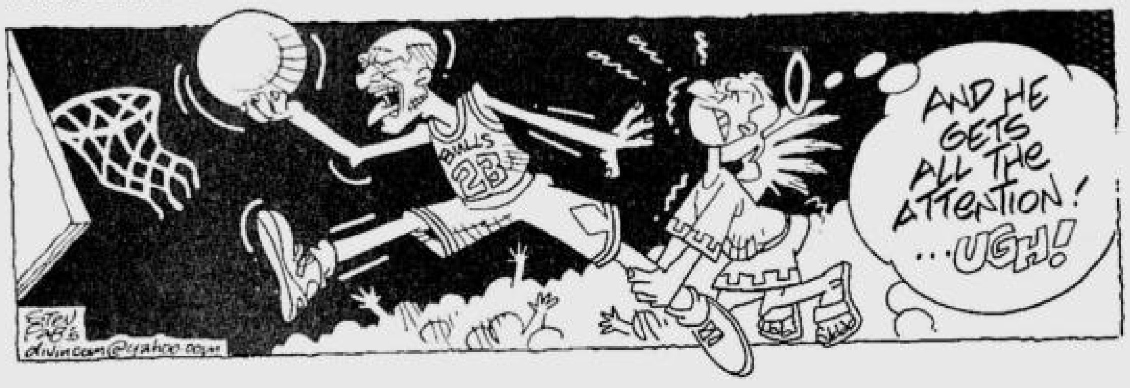
### MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OUT OF THE @☆*#?! WAY, YA LANDLUBBERS!
GEE, ARE ALL CRABS LIKE YOU, CRABBY?
NAH
SOME ARE @☆*#?! NASTY.
mutts comics.com
7-24

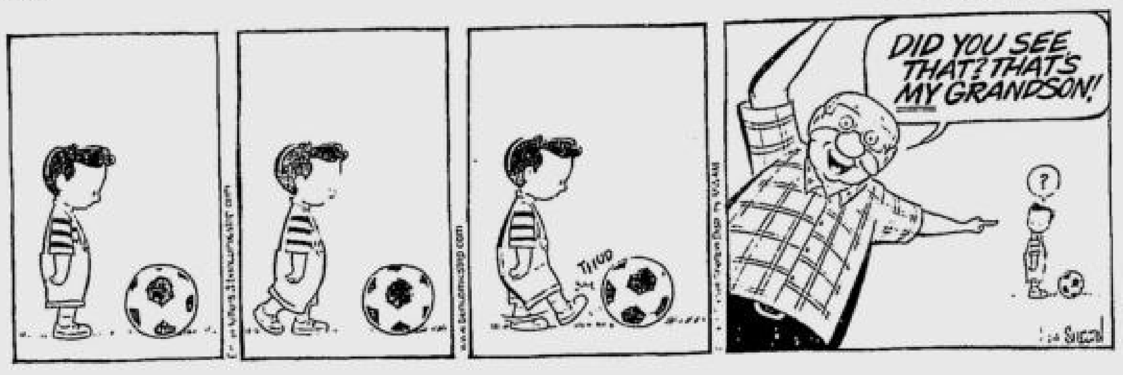
### DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


AND HE GETS ALL THE ATTENTION! ...UGH!
BULLS 23
divincom@yahoo.com

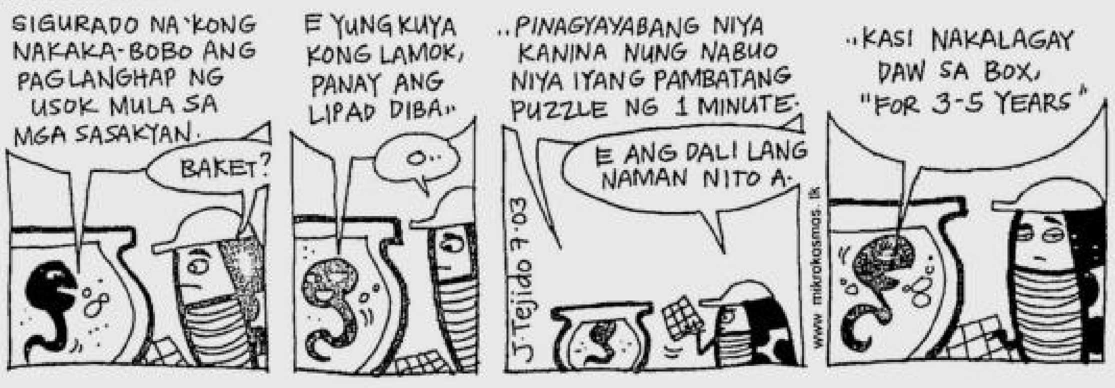
### BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THUD
DID YOU SEE THAT? THAT'S MY GRANDSON!
?

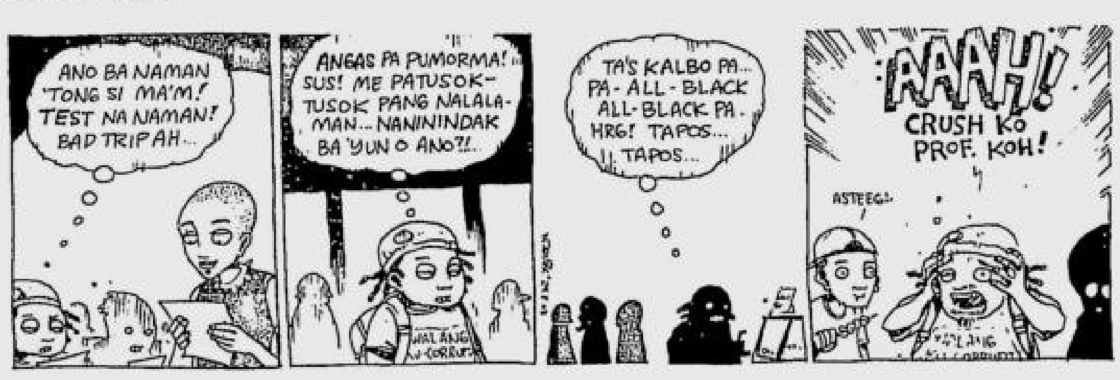
### MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SIGURADO NA 'KONG NAKAKA-BOBO ANG PAGLANGHAP NG USOK MULA SA MGA SASAKYAN.
BAKET?
E YUNG KUYA KONG LAMOK, PANAY ANG LIPAD DIBA..
O..
..PINAGYAYABANG NIYA KANINA NUNG NABUO NIYA IYANG PAMBATANG PUZZLE NG 1 MINUTE.
E ANG DALI LANG NAMAN NITO A.
..KASI NAKALAGAY DAW SA BOX, "FOR 3-5 YEARS"
J. Tejido 7.03
www.mikrokosmos.tk

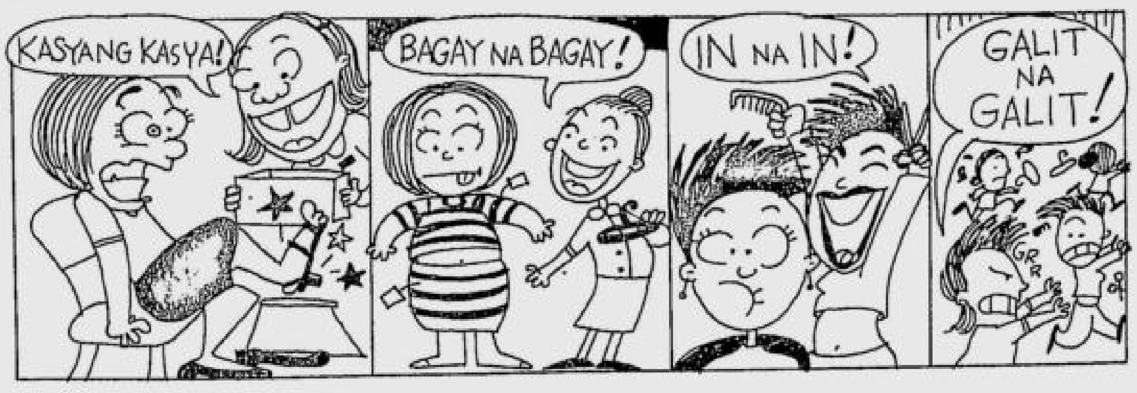
### KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ANO BA NAMAN 'TONG SI MA'M! TEST NA NAMAN! BAD TRIPAH..
ANGAS PA PUMORMA! SUS! ME PATUSOK-TUSOK PANG NALALAMAN... NANININDAK BA 'YUN O ANO?!..
TA'S KALBO PA... PA-ALL-BLACK ALL-BLACK PA. HRG! TAPOS... TAPOS...
AAAH!
CRUSH KO PROF. KOH!
ASTEEG!

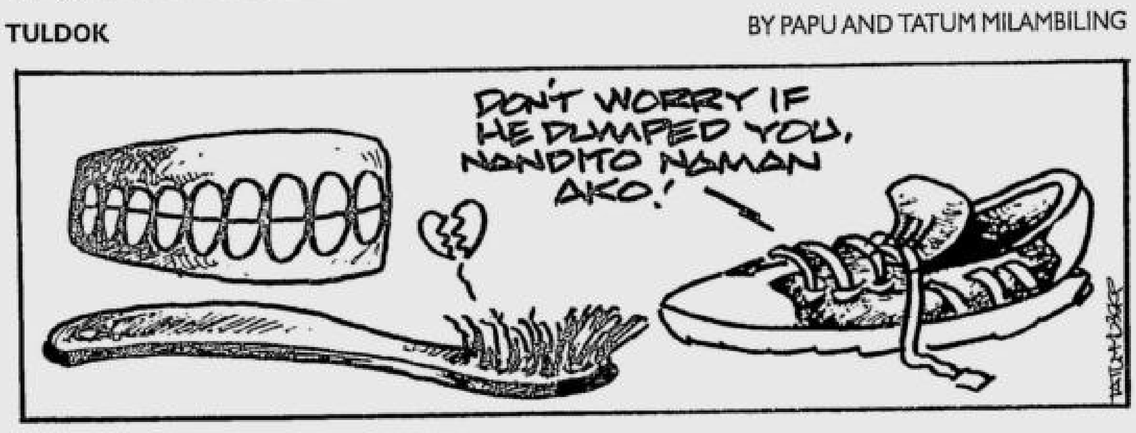
### FURRY LOGIC

BY SUZIE AND CALVIN


KASYANG KASYA!
BAGAY NA BAGAY!
IN NA IN!
GALIT NA GALIT!

### TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DON'T WORRY IF HE DUMPED YOU, NANDITO NAMAN AKO!

# Tours, Leisure & Chow

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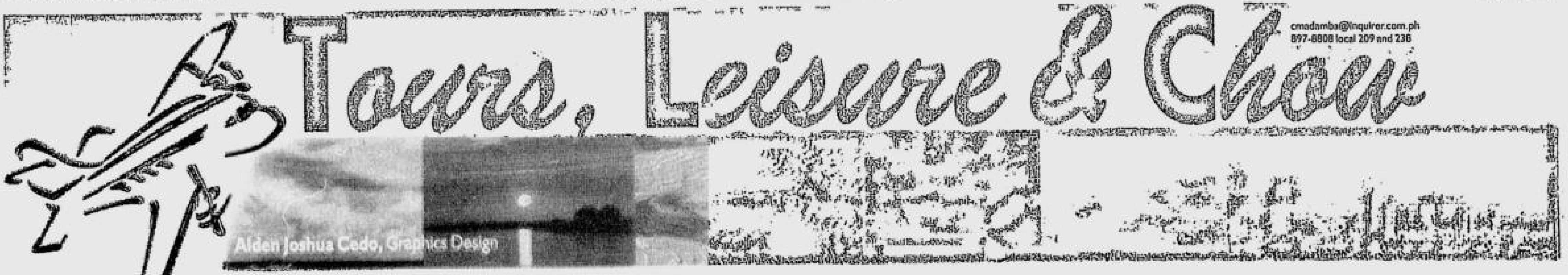
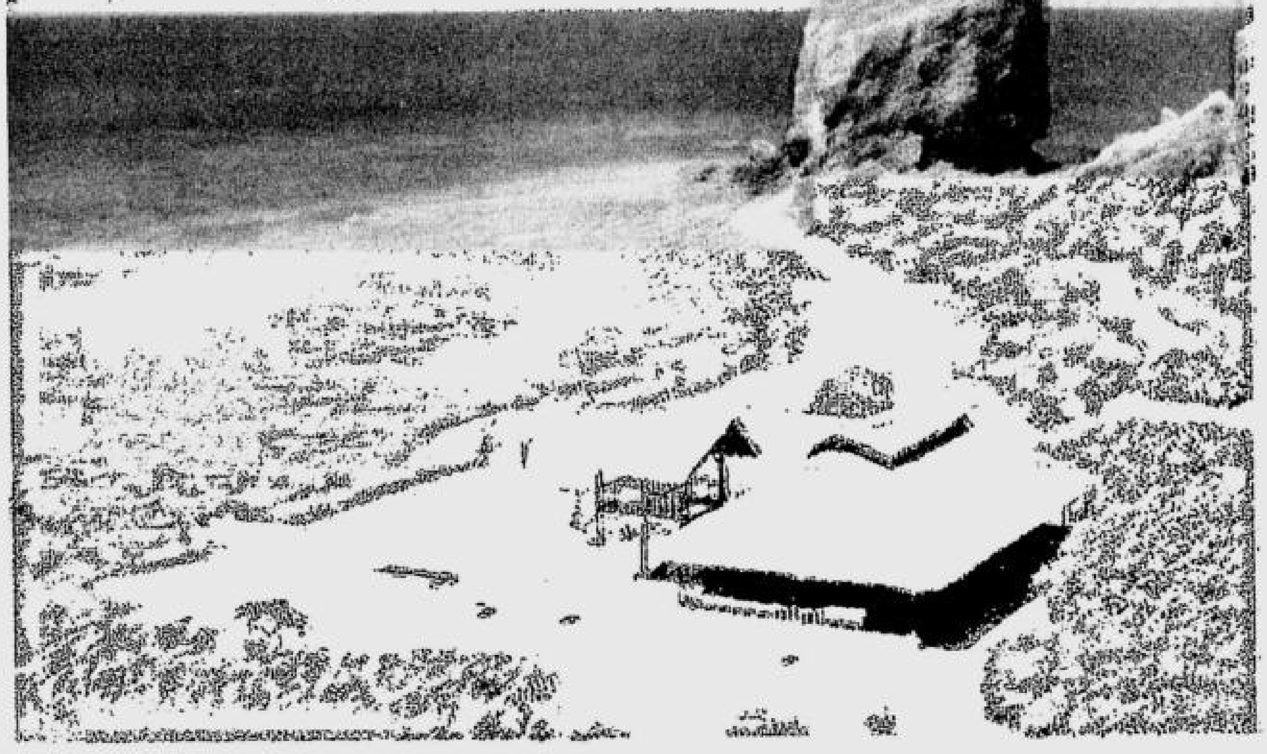
897-8808 local 209 and 236



Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

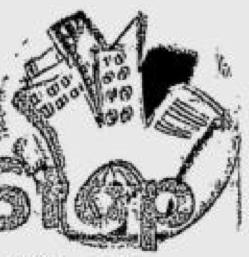
## [illegible] at Eagle Point Resort



PEOPLE often regard summer as the only time of the year to enjoy the outdoors and the beach, plunge in its warm waters and savor the tropical sun. Good news: a special resort offer was created to let people extend their summer fantasies through Barcelo Eagle Point's "Sunshine on Sale" package.

Priced at only P3,000++ per room (on weekend) and P2,800++ per room (on weekdays) for an overnight stay in a one-bedroom cottage (based on single or double occupancy), this unique offer already includes complimentary entrance and parking fees, round-trip shuttle service from the parking area to the resort, welcome drinks upon arrival, breakfast for two persons, and complimentary use of common facilities like the fresh and salt water swimming pools, children's playground and other recreational facilities. Guests' activities include hiking to the Walk-through Aviary, scheduled snorkeling guide for one hour (mask and snorkels are available for rent) and scheduled fish feeding at the reef pool, wherein guests get to experience feeding baby sharks and other marine species. The "Sunshine on Sale" offer was designed in line with the resort's thrust to promote domestic tourism and commitment to provide "only the very best" to its regular patrons. Summer may come to an end, but the sun still shines at Barcelo Eagle Point Resort.

Barcelo Eagle Point Resort was created as a refuge for people who would like to take a break from the hustle and bustle of urban life... within easy reach from the metro. The "Sunshine on Sale" limited offer is valid until Nov. 15. For inquiries, you may call their Manila Sales Office at 813-3553 or 867-1159. Visit its website at www.barcelo-asia.com.



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www.marriott.com

Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 813-8888/ Fax 813-5499
www.shangri-la.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Barcelo Hotels and Resorts
4/F Adamson Centre, 121 LP Leviste St.
Salcedo Village, Makati
Tel. (02) 867-1159/ fax (02) 867-1185
www.barcelo-asia.com

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

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1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

The Marco Polo
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www.marcopolohotels.com

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www.mandarin-oriental.com

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Alabang, Muntinlupa
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For feedback and inquiries, call
**899-4426 or 897-8808 loc 209**

## *The Bellevue Hotel keeps walking*

THE BELLEVUE Hotel, the new social and business hub south of Metro Manila, recently featured Johnnie Walker spirits in its GM's cocktails. Every week, top business executives, socialites and Alabang's hip set gather at the Bellevue's 20/20 for a night of lively entertainment, good food and uplifting spirits.

The Bellevue Hotel in Alabang is now the popular haunt for busybodies looking for rest and relaxation. One of its main attractions, the 20/20, is an entertainment center with a music lounge, main and sports bar located at the hotel's topmost floor. Alabang's socialites and hip set gather for a night of great music from the acoustic bands while gazing at the sweeping view of Manila's glittering lights which make it a most memorable spot.

Gracious hostess Cyndy Tan-Jarabata, The Bellevue's general manager, was an ever-present figure whose goal to ensure the enjoyment of guests was duly accomplished. Director of sales Myra Miranda and marketing services manager Ryan Chan also welcomed the select guests. Johnnie Walker's Mike O' Connor delighted partygoers by giving out free Johnnie Walker items. It was literally a night of free spirits!

The Bellevue Hotel represents only the best that 5-star business hotels offer—elegance, efficient service, friendly staff, convenient location, superb food, modern amenities and exciting activities—at affordable prices. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

**BELLEVUE General Manager Cyndy Tan-Jarabata with MS 2's Mike O'Connor**

**BARBIE Gandionco, Jakey Yulo, Nicole Whisenhunt and Gooby Yulo**

**KAI Nakanishi and Carlos Arguelles**

**TIM Sullivan, Danille Lim and Andrea Natividad**

# 'Wanted: Rex Navarette'

FIL-AM stand-up comic Rex Navarette will perform for the first time in Cebu on Aug. 2, Saturday, 9 a.m. at the Atlantic Hall of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel. Navarette has, in most recent months, achieved cult status in the local live entertainment scene. This is evidenced by his sell-out/SRO performances at venues in and around Metro Manila. He is the comic behind well-loved sketches like Maritess and the Superfriends, SBC Packers, and Tito Boy just to name a few. His material has a universal appeal as they are based from reality and shared Filipino life experiences. Rex is a household name to Filipino Americans in the United States. To date, he has five best-selling comedy CDs to his credit. This time around, he returns to the Philippines for a number of performances, but Cebu will be his only engagement outside of Manila. Ticket prices are P750 (VIP-Reserved) and P500 (free seating). Tickets include one Free Standard Drink (Choice of soda, ice tea or local beer). Tickets are available at the following outlets: Waterfront Cebu City Hotel (032-2326888), Kaona Grill (032-2342865) or at Active Imaging (032-2327799/2354605).

Here's a treat. Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Air Philippines are offering a special promo in connection with this event. From July 26 to Aug. 2, you can avail yourself of a special room package at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel by presenting any of the following: "Wanted: Rex Navarette" show ticket; or Air Philippines boarding pass and avail yourself of a room for only P2,300 net (single with breakfast) or P2,600 net (double with breakfast). An even better offer can be availed of when you present both "Wanted: Rex Navarette" show ticket and Air Philippines boarding pass and avail yourself of a room for only P2,000 net (single or double with breakfast).

# Fiesta San Miguel to open at Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila

SAN Miguel Corp. (SMC) and Dusit Hotel Nikko have signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) that calls for the establishment of a unique consumer outlet at the five-star hotel.

Dubbed as Fiesta San Miguel, the new outlet will feature San Miguel Beer brewed on-premise at Dusit's microbrewery, the only facility of its kind in the country located in a two-level 1,200 sq. m. restaurant. The freshly brewed beer will be made available along with some of the finest Filipino and international cuisine that will use quality ingredients from San Miguel Pure Foods Company Inc. (SMPFCI).

The outlet's first level, designed for fine dining, can accommodate a hundred customers while the upper level will have a bar with 170 seats. Fiesta San Miguel is designed to cater to a clientele composed of different age brackets. The new dining and drinking experience it offers of having San Miguel Beer straight from the brew kettles, matches the upscale Filipino and international dishes in its menu.

Fiesta
San Miguel

**TOASTING** for the success of Fiesta San Miguel and for a fruitful business relationship are (from left) the MOA signatories Jose Daniel Javier, general manager of SMC's Centralized Key Accounts Group; Ramon S. Ang, president and chief operating officer of SMC; Dusit Hotels and Resorts Group chief operating officer and director of Phil. Hoteliers Inc. Khun Khampi Suwanarat and Dusit Hotel Nikko general manager Chiyuki Fujimoto.

# Regine builds Bridges of music for special children

**By Julie Fe Navarro**
*Contributor*

REGINE Velasquez loves children, and children apparently love her. Nowhere is this more evident than at the Bridges Learning Center, manned by her best friend Grace Reyes, which Regine visits whenever her hectic schedule permits.

A school for special children, mostly those with neurological and behavior problems, Bridges Learning Center was established 10 years ago. It is located at 22 Scout Limbaga, Quezon City (372-0752).

"In 1992, my sister and a former teacher got together," relates Grace, a teacher. "We had this vision of putting up a school to help children with special needs. Back then, special education was only for the rich. We wanted everyone to have access so we tried to put our dream into reality, and Bridges was started.

**SHOW TIME**

"Eleven years later, we're still here, pursuing our dream. Some people say going to our school is costly, but if you look closely at our program, you will understand why. For those who are able to pay, probably *mabigat para sa kanila, pero para doon sa hindi kaya*, we offer scholarship programs. Usually, we refer the children to specialists like educational psychologists or developmental pediatricians for evaluation and diagnosis prior to enrollment."

Regine, who is beside her best friend Grace during this interview right in the school, continues the explanation: "Usually, one look is all it takes for my friend to tell what's wrong with a child. But because she and her fellow teachers are not doctors, they're not licensed to assess. That's why they refer the children first to specialists, like educational psychologists and developmental pediatricians who, in turn, refer the children back to them. If the school has a program that the child needs, they accept the child. Otherwise, they refer the child to another school. Almost all these schools know each other because there are not so many schools for special children."

## Best-friend Johnny

How did Regine get involved with Bridges?

"I am not directly involved," Regine says. "It so happened that Grace is my friend, and when she actually put up the school, I was there. *Ako ang kakuwentuhan niya, and pinagsasabihan ng mga problema*. Best-friend Johnny *nga ako, eh*."

"Regine cut the ribbon when we opened," Grace volunteers.

"I know what the school has been through," adds Regine. "I know how hard it was for them to stay alive, because she would complain to me. I would get frustrated because I knew I could help but she wouldn't ask me. One time I told them, 'Why don't you put up a concert and I'll do it for you for free? That way, you can generate cash for your school.' But even if I sang for them for free, they wouldn't have the money to produce a show. Even if I sang for free, they would have to pay for the venue, the suppliers, the tickets, the posters, the promotion. And she doesn't want to take advantage of our friendship."

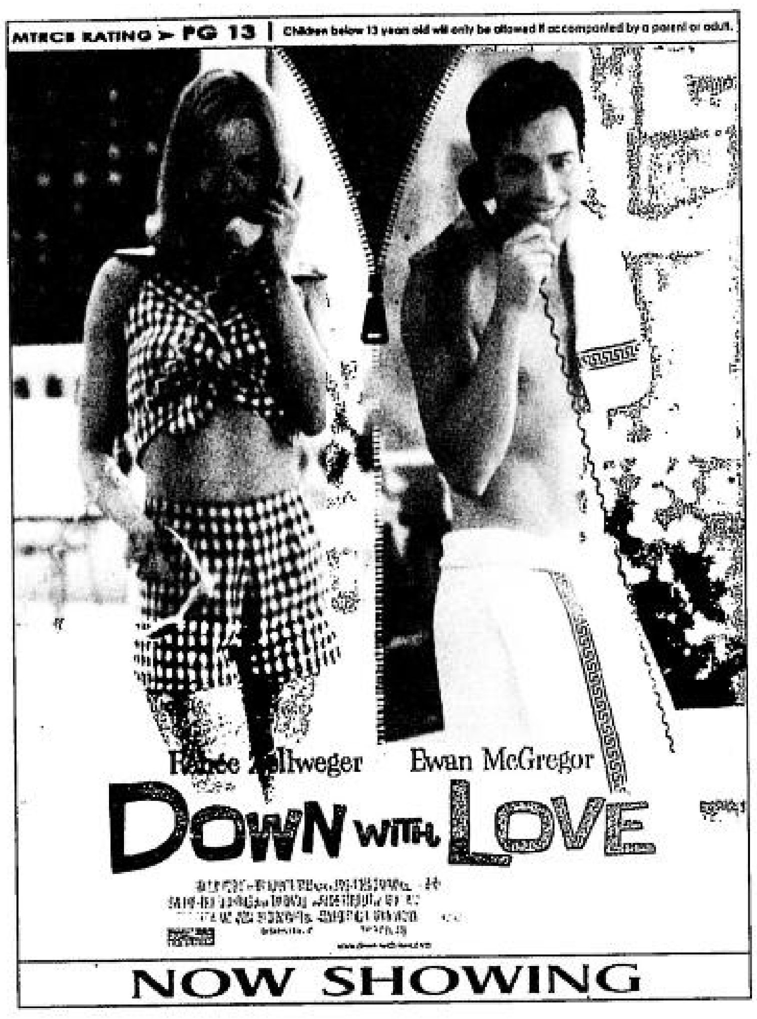
## Charity work

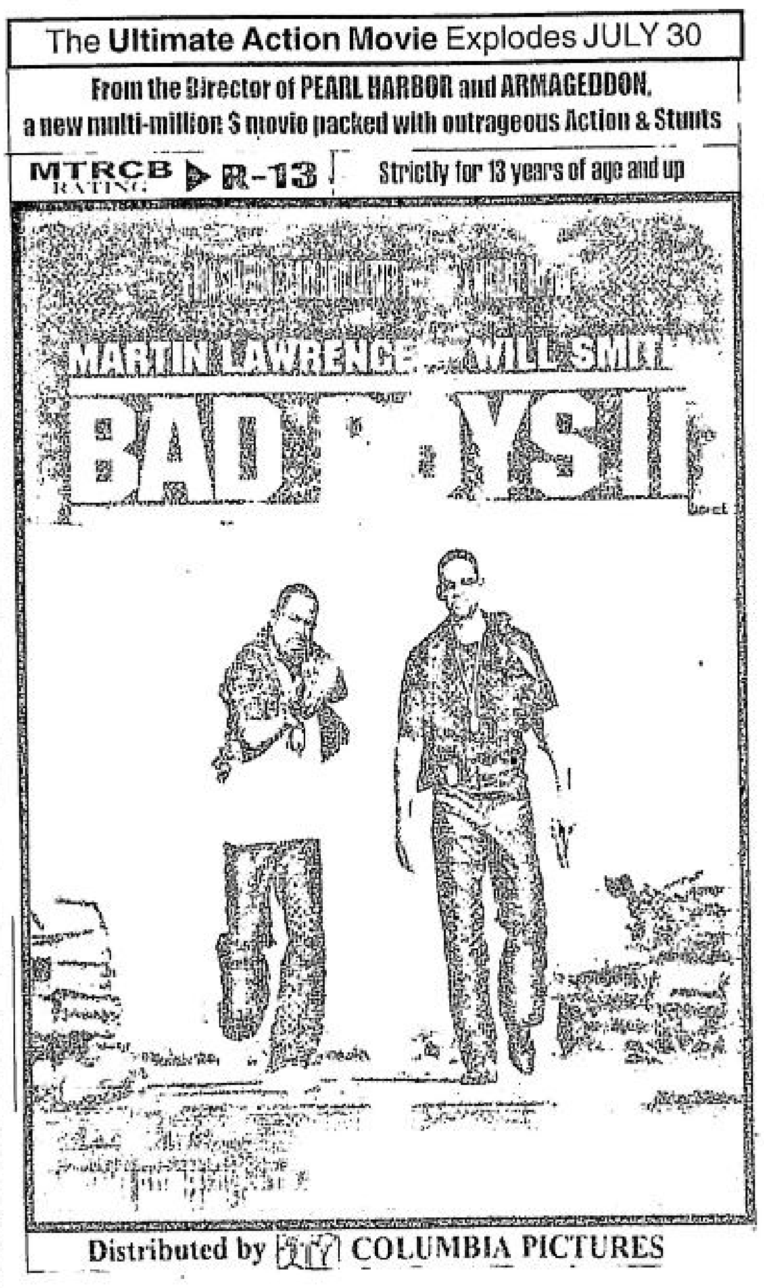
The singer adds: "I have to keep forcing her to get sponsors, but it's really hard since they're a non-stock, non-profit foundation, and they have 32 in their staff who have to be paid. And then there's the electricity, the water, and they even have a nutrition program for the children."

In 1996, she sang for free to raise funds for Bridges, for the first time. She has since done charity work for the school many times, but refuses to enumerate them. She only says they are her way of giving back the blessings she has been receiving.

On July 26, Regine is doing another concert for Bridges, at the Shangri-La Makati.

"If I can do a show for others, how much more for my friend here and for these special kids," says the singer."


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
Renée Zellweger
Ewan McGregor
DOWN WITH LOVE
NOW SHOWING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From the Director of PEARL HARBOR and ARMAGEDDON,
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AKSYONG TIGASIN...
PELIKULANG DI DAPAT PALAMPASIN!
ACE VERGEL
VICTOR NERI
MIKEY ARROYO
MAUI TAYLOR
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EDDIE GARCIA
Masamang Ugat
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DIRECTED BY WILFREDO MILAN DGPI
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OPENS JULY 30!
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PINKY AMADOR AND MARK GIL
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JASMINE COLLINS JAIRA GOMEZ JULIA LOPEZ
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Violett
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOSE N. CARREON, DGPI

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| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA 1 | Lara CRof TOMB RAIDER 2<br>11:00, 1:40, 4:20,<br>7:00, 9:40<br>P13 |
| CINEMA 2 | Lara CRof TOMB RAIDER 2<br>11:30, 2:10, 4:50,<br>7:30, 10:10<br>P13 |

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| AUG 8-9 & 15-16 2003 | GARY V. HITS MUSIC MUSEUM | 9:00PM |

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| LIZZIE MCGUIRE<br>GP<br>12:00,2:00,4:00,<br>6:00,8:00,10:00 | TOMB RAIDER 2<br>PG13<br>1:50,4:20,<br>6:50,9:20 | TOMB RAIDER 2<br>PG13<br>11:55,2:25,4:55,<br>7:25,9:55 |
| TERMINATOR:<br>RISE OF THE MACHINES<br>PG13<br>12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00 | DOWN WITH LOVE<br>PG13<br>1:30,3:35,5:40,<br>7:45,9:50 | TOMB RAIDER 2<br>PG13<br>12:30,3:00,5:30,<br>8:00,10:30 |

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**Araneta Center**
**ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE**

**ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ali 1 | SABIK SA PAG-IBIG |
| Ali 2 | MASAMANG UGAT |
| Ali 3 | TERMINATOR 3 |
| Ali 4 | TOMB RAIDER 2 |
| Ali 5 | TOMB RAIDER 2 |
| Ali 6 | BANGKOK HANUTED |
| Ali 7 | DEATH WATCH |

**ARANETA COLISEUM**

| | |
|---|---|
| JULY 24 | UAAP GAMES |
| JULY 25 & 26 | DON MOEN CONCERT |
| JUL 31 | UAAP GAMES |
| AUG 1 & 2 | DON MOEN CONCERT |
| AUG 02 | JUST ONCE GREATEST HITS |
| AUG 07 | UAAP GAMES |
| Opens December 2003 | DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast" |

**THEATER MOVIE GUIDE**

**MANILA**

| | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA |
| ODEON | X-MEN 2 |
| ODEON-2 | BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN |
| ROBEN | BOLD STAR |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KAWAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE |

**QUEZON CITY**

| | |
|---|---|
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET A | SABIK SA PAGIBIG |
| CORONET B | A MAN APART |
| QUEZON-1 | BERTUD NG PUTIK |
| REMAR | X-MEN 2 |
| REMAR-2 | BOLD STAR |

**NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA**

| | |
|---|---|
| A | SABIK SA PAG-IBIG |
| B | TOMB RAIDER 2 |
| C | |

**MANDALUYONG CITY**

| | |
|---|---|
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED FOR RENOVATION |

**CAINTA RIZAL**

| | |
|---|---|
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | SABIK SA PAGI-BIG |
| CINEMA-2 | JACKASS |
| CINEMA-3 | BIGLANG LIKO |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | DOWN WITH LOVE |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | CHARLIES ANGELS 2 |
| CINEMA-6 | WILD BUTTERFLY |
| CINEMA-7 | BAD INSTINCT |
| CINEMA-8 | MASAMANG UGAT |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | TOMB RAIDER 2 |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | TOMB RAIDER 2 |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | TOMB RAIDER 2 |
| CINEMA-12 | LIZZIE MCGUIRE |
| CINEMA-14 | TERMINATOR 3 |
| CINEMA-15 | BANGKOK HAUNTED |

**LORES**

| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |

**NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN**

| | |
|---|---|
| CINEMA 1 | TERMINATOR 3 |
| CINEMA 2 | HUNTED |
| CINEMA 3 | JACKASS |
| CINEMA 4 | CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2 |

**UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL**

| | |
|---|---|
| (PARANAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |

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# Additional 'drama' on singing tilt

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

LAST Saturday's "Search for A Star" (Channel 7, 6 p.m.) was interesting because the singing tilt added a new wrinkle to its way of informing aspiring singers that they had been chosen to compete in the "SFAS" show for a given week.

In the past, the show would simply surprise the contestant with the good news. Last Saturday, however more "drama" was added to the equation:

The first contestant was told that her husband had been married to somebody else. When the "evidence" was presented to her to read, she discovered that it was a letter informing her that she had made it to "SFAS."

The second contestant was 'auditioned' for a spurious commercial before being told that she was going to compete in last Saturday's show.

And the third contestant was asked to sing a jingle, only to be informed that he didn't pass muster — but he would get paid for trying out, anyway, so could he please look inside the envelope that was handed to him? Of course, the envelope contained the letter about his inclusion in the competition.

These "dramatic" scenarios do add something to the show, but the contestants themselves didn't quite know how to take them.

Of course, they were extra ecstatic when the "problems" turned out to be fake, but they were also irritated, shocked, and perhaps even felt used, because their feelings were played with before they were given the great news that they had been accepted for competition on "SFAS."

So, should the show continue to put its contestants through the wringer in this way? Only if most contestants think it's ok. And if the "dramas" aren't all that numbing like that "your husband has another wife" scenario for last Saturday's first contestant. That was clearly too much.

What do you think?

## Feedback

OUR thanks to Ms **Catherine Ledesma** for her encouraging words. She recently singled out this column "for tirelessly fighting for good TV programs." She also said she liked our column on "Excessive focus on gossip."

Thanks for the heartening comments, Ms Ledesma. It's great to know that there are people out there who are aware of the importance of TV, and see the need for viewers to assert their right to good, varied and unexploitative programming.

Let's hope that other viewers will realize the power of TV to subliminally effect our lives for good and for bad. We've championed many causes through our writing years, but we now see that the development of audience power is one of the most important missions of all.

A clueless audience makes it easy for entertainment people to do sloppy and irresponsible work. But, if enough people complain, erring show biz folks are forced to mend their ways and do better.

Finally, let's remember that all this isn't really for us adults, but for young members of the entertainment audience, who are exceedingly vulnerable to show biz's negative importunings.

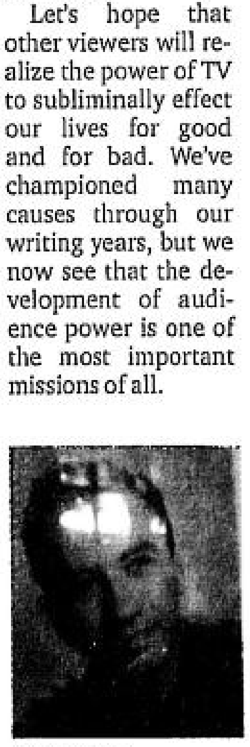
## Mass for Danny Holmsen

LAST July 11, we attended the Mass at the Sampaguita Pictures chapel marking the 40th day of **Danny Holmsen**'s death. Danny's Sampaguita friends and colleagues, led by Mama **Nene Vera-Perez**, prayed for the repose of his soul.

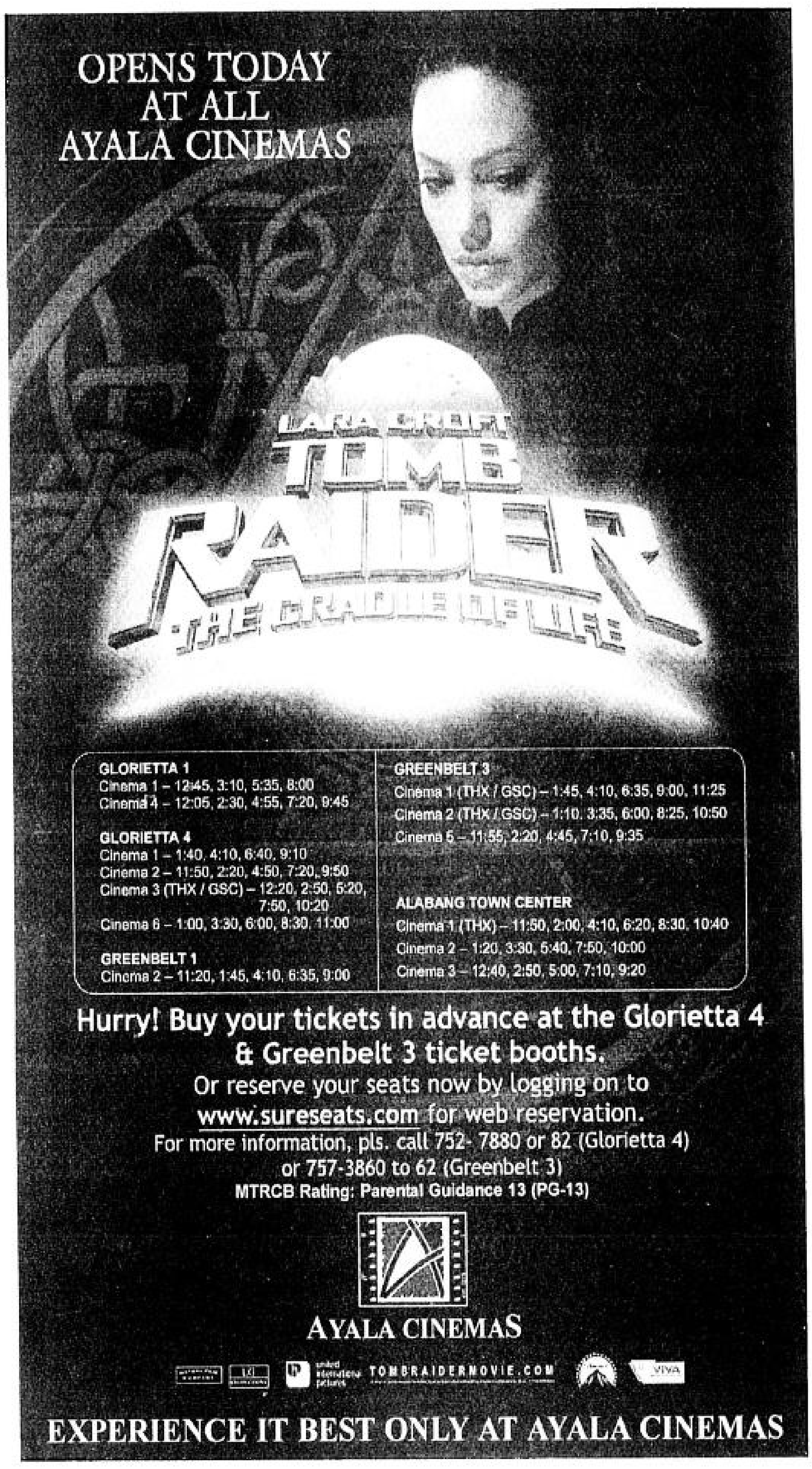
A tape of Danny's musical compositions was played before the Mass started. During the sermon, the officiating priest reminded everyone that death was not something to be feared, but prepared for because it could come anytime, as in Danny's case. The point was not lost on the people present at the 40-day observance.

Former Sampaguita luminaries in attendance were led by **Susan Roces**, a most loyal friend. Everyone wanted to know how the investigation of Danny's murder was going, but no definite word was to be had in this regard, beyond talk about the mastermind already being identified, etc.

Let's hope the investigation will come to a positive conclusion soon, for Danny's and justice's sake. After the **Nida Blanca** case, the last thing the show biz world needs is another protracted investigation.



HOLMSEN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GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1 – 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
Cinema 2 – 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
Cinema 3 (THX / GSC) – 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
Cinema 6 – 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00

GREENBELT 1
Cinema 2 – 11:20, 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00

GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1 (THX / GSC) – 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00, 11:25
Cinema 2 (THX / GSC) – 1:10, 3:35, 6:00, 8:25, 10:50
Cinema 5 – 11:55, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cinema 1 (THX) – 11:50, 2:00, 4:10, 6:20, 8:30, 10:40
Cinema 2 – 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
Cinema 3 – 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20

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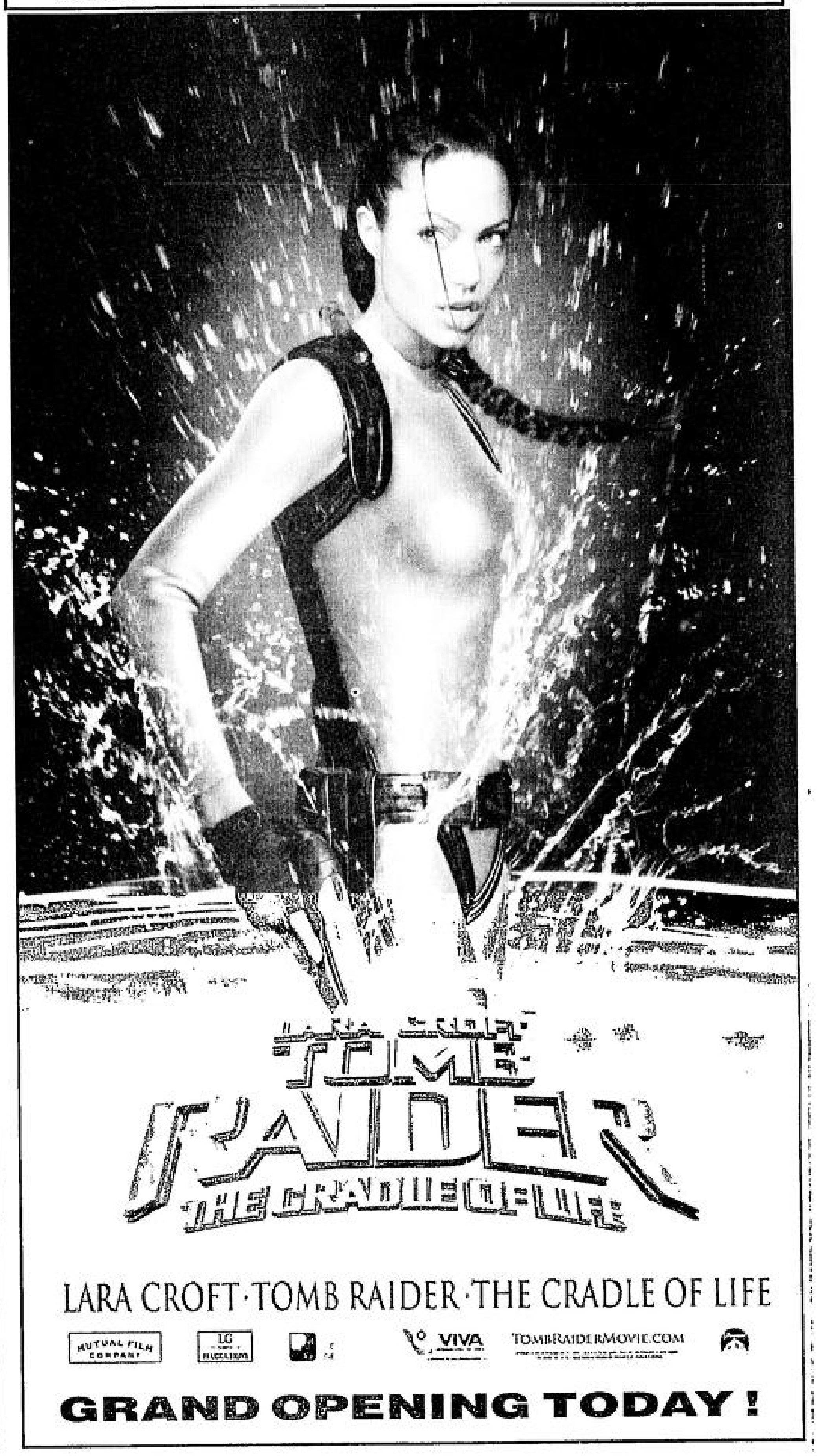
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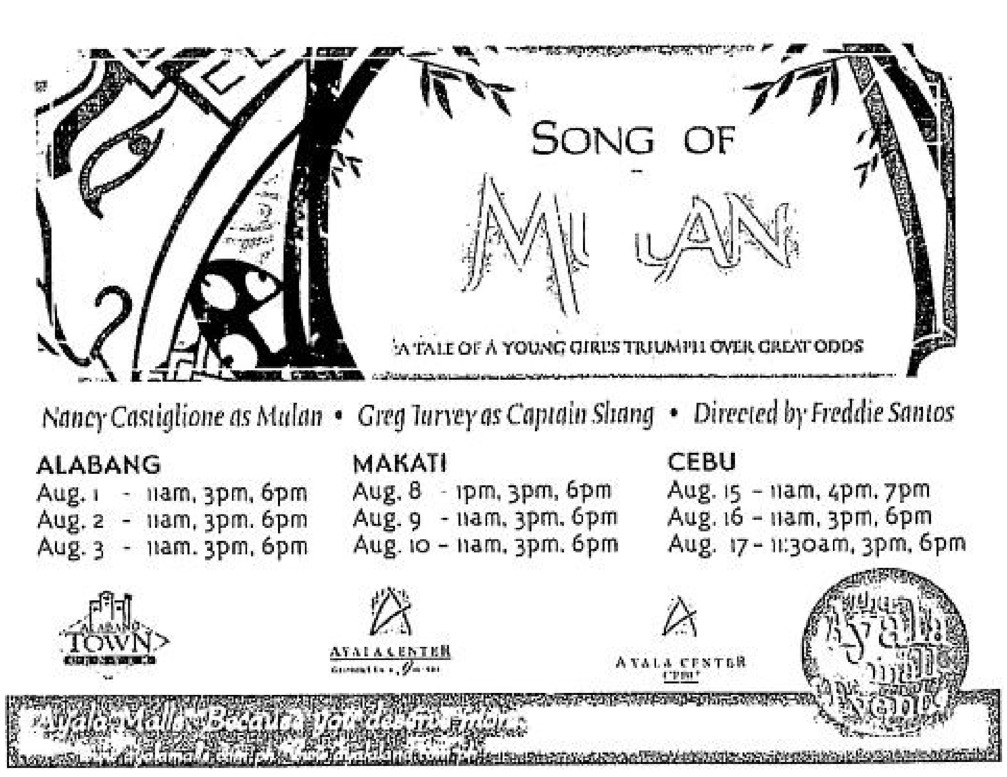
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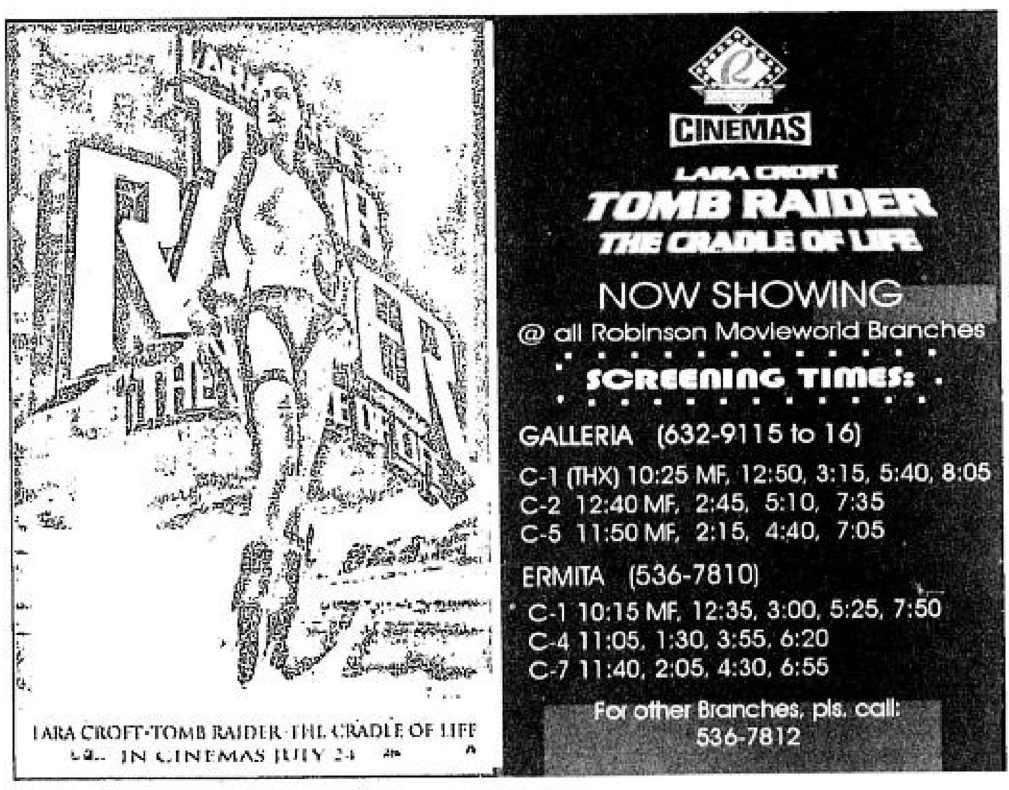
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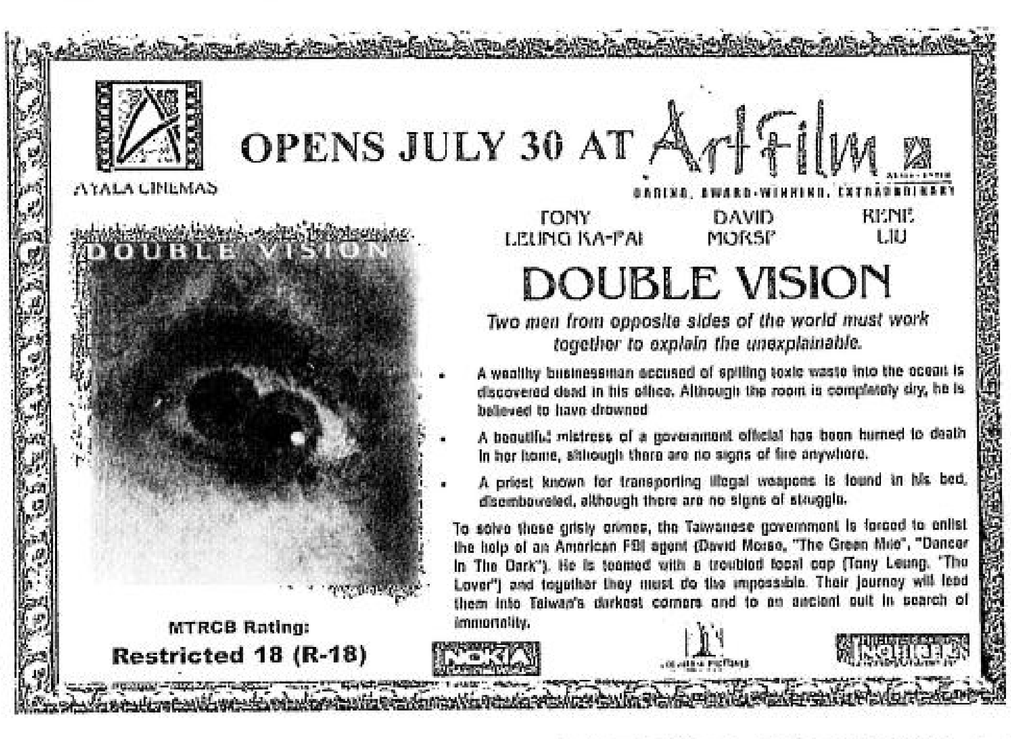
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- A priest known for transporting illegal weapons is found in his bed, disemboweled, although there are no signs of struggle.

To solve these grisly crimes, the Taiwanese government is forced to enlist the help of an American FBI agent (David Morse, "The Green Mile", "Dancer In The Dark"). He is teamed with a troubled local cop (Tony Leung, "The Lover") and together they must do the impossible. Their journey will lead them into Taiwan's darkest corners and to an ancient cult in search of immortality.

MTRCB Rating:
Restricted 18 (R-18)

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Miranda was screened at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival.

MTRCB Rating:
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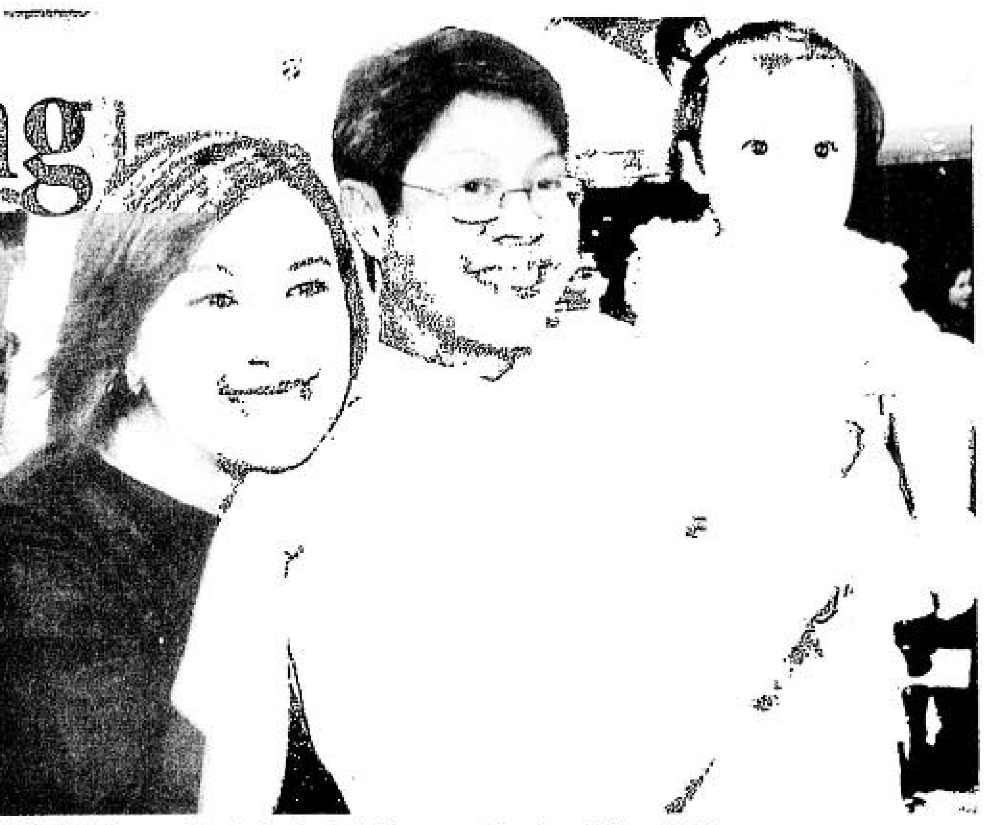
# Sharon: I'm praying for another baby



TIME OUT for another baby is what Sharon and husband Kiko will take. FILE PHOTO

**By Jocelyn Valle**
*Contributor*

"I'M praying for another baby," megastar Sharon Cuneta said as she announced she would not be doing any movies or concerts for one whole year to concentrate on getting pregnant again.

"I have a delicate pregnancy, so I'll just do my show ('Sharon,' the Sunday night talk show on Channel 2) every week, just like when I was pregnant with Frankie," explained the mother of two girls, 18-year-old KC Concepcion and 2-year-old Frankie Pangilinan.

In 1997-1998, Sharon also took time out from show business and lived with her husband in Boston, while he studied for a master's degree in public administration at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

A year later, Sharon got pregnant with Frankie, who was born in December 2000.

But before her new self-imposed slowdown starts, Sharon and her husband, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, will fly to Paris to help KC settle down in her new school, where she will be a college freshman.

"We're looking for a place where's she's going to live," Sharon said Tuesday afternoon at the launch of the "Kabarangay sa Dental Health" campaign of Colgate toothpaste, which she is now promoting.

"We'll try to figure out who could stay with her for the first couple of weeks or months.

"We're not yet sure if she'll finish her whole four-year course in the same school or country, so there's a chance we might go to another place after the first year or so," she added. "It's really up to her. We just want the best education for our children."

She said she and her family would be with KC in the French capital for a month. When she comes back home to Manila, she will promote her new movie, "Kung Ako na Lang Sana," with Aga Muhlach, who'll be her leading man for the first time.

She's also in the cast of the Metro Manila film festival entry, "Crying Ladies."

Sharon was again asked about following in the political footsteps of her father, the late Pasay City Mayor Pablo Cuneta.

"When my father was still alive," she said, "he used to tell me, I'm not requesting you to run, I'm commanding you to run.

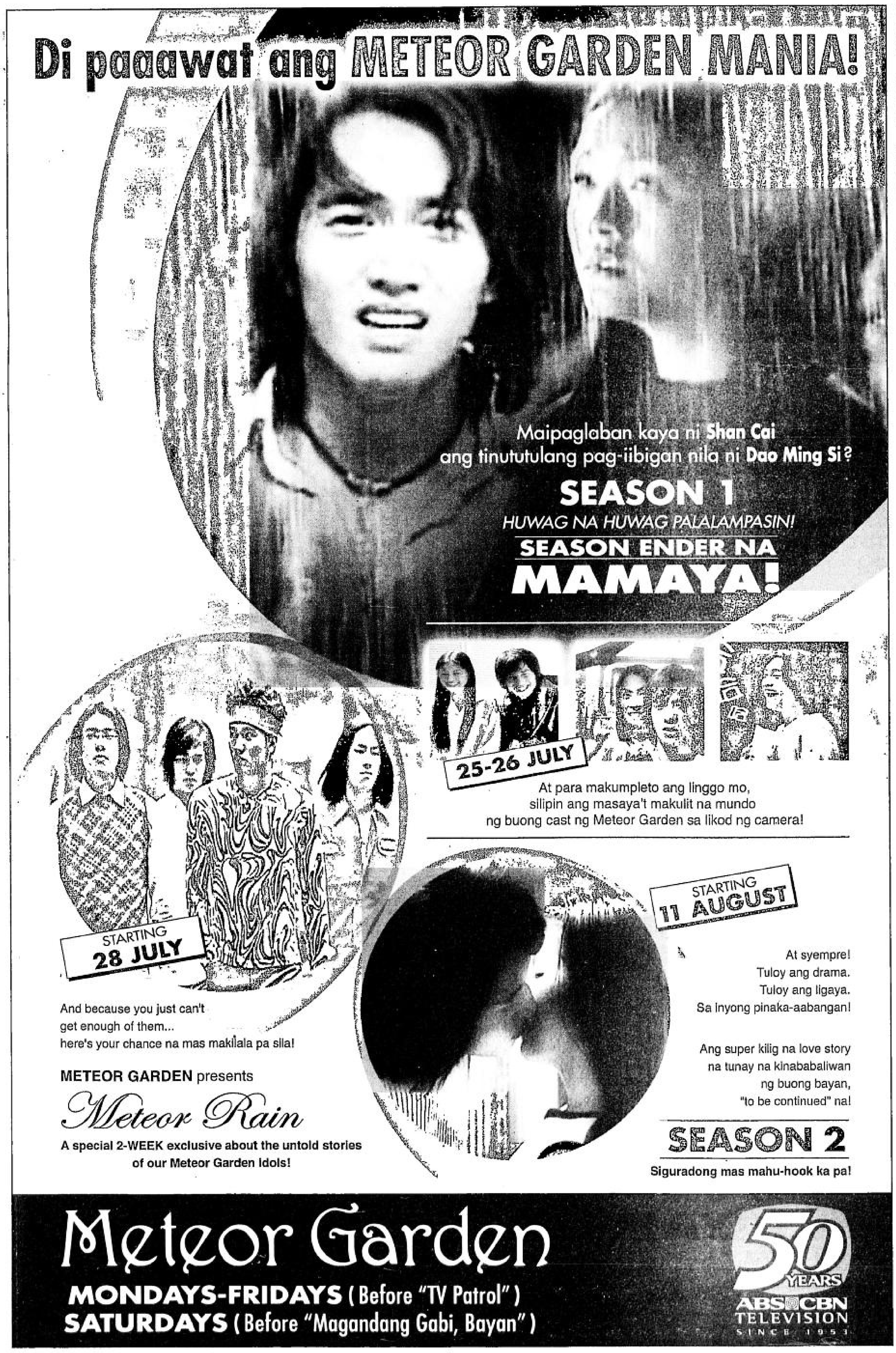
"All these years, I've been happy with what I do, that is, entertaining people. And I've always believed that you can help people and make a difference in their lives even if you're not in public office.

"'Every time an election is approaching, or every time there's talk that I or another show biz star is running for public office, you'll notice that certain politicians suddenly issue a statement," she added. "*Hindi ka pa nakapag*-announce, *sinisira ka na.* If they're so affected by the news that I might run, maybe there's something to it. Maybe I should think about it. But I'm not finished thinking about it."

She stressed that she's "happy with what I'm doing" in show business. "And you know what, I have no desire for power. *Nakakapagod na rin kasi ang pamumulitika nila. Ang gulu-gulo na nga, sana magtulungan na lang tayo.*"

A few weeks ago, incumbent Pasay Mayor Peewee Trinidad was quoted in news reports as saying Sharon, who happens to be his godchild, should live in Pasay first before even thinking of running for office in the city.

"If I were close to my Ninong (Trinidad), I'd probably even support his projects," Sharon said during the Colgate campaign launch. "'*Pag may ginawa kang mabuti, hindi mo naman ma*-blame *kung isipin ng ibang tao, Ah, gumagawa ito ng ganito para iboto.*"



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DEMOCRAT VS REPUBLICAN. Streisand and husband Brolin

# Streisand husband to play Reagan

LOS ANGELES—US actor James Brolin, the husband of Democratic activist Barbra Streisand, will play Republican president Ronald Reagan in a new CBS television mini-series, industry sources said Monday.

In an ironic political twist, Brolin has signed on for the role of the Gipper in the four-hour production of "The Reagans" that will tell the story of his 50-year love affair with wife Nancy, who will be played by Judy Davis.

"We haven't asked Barbra Streisand what she thinks about James Brolin playing Ronald Reagan, but we'll have to live with that," CBS president Leslie Moonves told Daily Variety.

The mini-series aims to tell the story of the Reagans as American icons and as a close family, and will not focus on the politics of his 1981-1989 tenure as president.

Brolin, who has played a role in the White House series "The West Wing," recently appeared on the big screen in Steven Spielberg's "Catch Me If You Can," and has also played roles in "Traffic" and "Master of Disguise."

"The Reagans" will focus on Reagan's rise from the 1940s when he was a young Hollywood actor and will cover his rise to governor of California and then on to president of the United States. *AFP*

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# San Miguel faces ₱1.4B in back taxes

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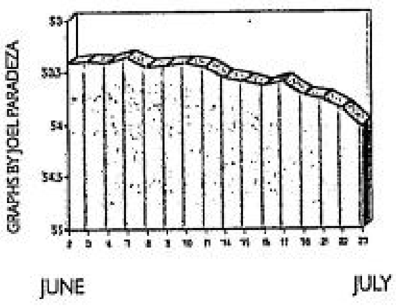

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As of 5 p.m., July 23, 2003

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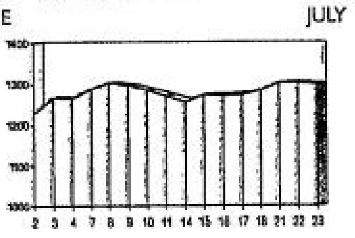
### STOCK MARKET

## Stocks close lower

**PSE COMPOSITE INDEX**



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS ended mildly lower yesterday after trading in a narrow range, pulled down by a slight drop in market heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT).

Some investors turned to second-line property issues which lagged behind the market's rally last month as these stocks offered quick gains, traders said.

But players remained largely cautious as they awaited second quarter corporate results to dictate the broad market's direction in coming months.

The composite index eased 2.89 points or 0.22 percent to end at 1,298.59 after being confined to an 11-point range.

Turnover rose to a moderately heavy P633.73 million from P572.6 million on Tuesday. Losers outpaced gainers 45 to 38, with 35 stocks unchanged.

*Reuters*

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

**BEER giant San Miguel Corp. may have to pay the government more than P1 billion in back taxes and add P10 to the retail price of its San Mig Light if the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) rules its beer is a variant of its San Miguel beer line, which includes the Pale Pilsen, Super Dry and Premium All-Malt.**

This is part of the BIR's ongoing drive to bring up-to-date the taxes on liquor and cigarette brands that were introduced after 1997 when the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program took effect. A BIR survey showed that 11 of 30 new cigarette brands and variants introduced during the last five years should be placed in a higher price bracket and pay higher taxes.

These brands are Astro and Memphis of La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Co., Lucky Strike and Capri Slims of British American Tobacco, Pentagon Associated of Anglo-American Tobacco, and Mighty of Mighty Corp. These firms were given 15 days (raised from seven) to submit their comments on the BIR's findings. The BIR estimated that the back taxes from these brands amount to more P3 billion, the bulk of which were accounted for by La Suerte.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno told the INQUIRER that the agency has yet to decide whether to apply the new tax classification on cigarettes and liquor only on future sales or to collect on the back taxes from the date of introduction.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag told the INQUIRER that the issue of whether San Mig Light was a new brand or variant was still under study and would be tackled in today's hearing. The BIR conducted a hearing on cigarettes yesterday.

San Miguel was still preparing its response to the BIR's move as of presstime.

SMC registered San Mig Light as a new brand in 1999 with an excise tax of P9.15 per liter. But some BIR probers argued that the San Mig Light was a variant of the San Miguel Beer brand and not a new brand like Gold Eagle or Red Horse.

The BIR probers noted that all San Miguel Beer variants carried the same coat of arms in their label, which differentiates them from the Gold Eagle or Red Horse line; San Mig was an abbreviation of San Miguel Beer, and the labels have the same design connoting affiliation to specific family of beer.

Under the country's tax laws, a variant is referred to as a brand on which a modifier is prefixed or suffixed to the root name of the brand which carries the same logo or design of the existing brand. The rules state that existing brands introduced after the implementation of the CTRP should be taxed the highest classification of any variant of that brand.

Based on these rules, San Mig Light should pay the same tax as the San Miguel Premium Can (the highest taxed variant of the San Miguel Beer line) of P19.91

SAN MIGUEL/B2

# Gov't cancels all tax credit certificates; revalidation set

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has directed the One-Stop Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center to cancel all outstanding tax credit certificates to rid the system of all illegitimate TCCs.

The One-Stop Shop was instructed, during a special revalidation period starting Oct. 1, 2003, to March 31, 2004, to issue new tax credit certificates in a new form bearing more security features to prevent unauthorized duplication, a DOF order showed.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the revalidation would serve to "demonetize" all illegitimate tax credit certificates and prevent unscrupulous groups and individuals from taking advantage of the fake TCCs to defraud the government.

Companies that submitted spurious documents to claim tax credits defrauded the government of some P5.3 billion in revenues in previous years. Some estimated the amount at P20 billion.

The One-Stop Shop, an inter-agency group composed of the DOF, the bureaus of Internal Revenue and of Customs, and the Board of Investments, is allowed to issue tax credit certificates to exporters as a form of incentives.

Exporters could avail themselves of tax credits every time they pay taxes on raw materials and supplies used to produce the goods they would ship out. They could use the credits to pay their own taxes or transfer these to a BOI-registered company in exchange for goods or services.

The revalidation, according to DOF Order 19-03, would cover TCCs issued by the One-Stop Shop jointly with either the BIR or the Customs.

"The special revalidation is intended to determine the outstanding amount of TCCs that are still floating in the market and to prevent the use of expired, stolen, fake, tampered, or recycled TCCs that may still exist in the market," Finance Undersecretary Gracia Pulido-Tan said.

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| 396,000 | 50,411 | 34,538 | 27,455 | 19,683 | 16,059 | 13,617 |
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# San Miguel...

From page B1

per liter and instead of its current tax of P9.15 per liter. From a current suggested retail price of P14 a bottle, SMC has no choice but to raise the price to P24 per bottle if San Mig Light is deemed a variant.

A BIR source estimated that SMC would be liable for roughly P1.4 billion in back taxes based on the sales of the San Mig Light, its 4th best seller brand with a 6-percent market share.

The same source said that even if the BIR should confirm that San Mig Light was a new beer, SMC would still be liable for nearly P500 million in back taxes after it raised its prices in March 2000 which nudged it beyond the P22 ceiling for the mid-priced beer and make it liable for a higher tax rate of P13.61 per liter.

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# Caller of the money

## BREAKTIME

### *Conrado R. Banal III*

LET us say, by some stroke of cleverness by the courts again, the PCGG succeeds. It takes over management of San Miguel. Hmm.

I know, don't tell me, it's "yehey, we just hit the jackpot" again! San Miguel happens to be the biggest private business in the country today.

Well, as it drools over San Miguel's vast fortune, the PCGG has a long track record to show in managing the companies it took over. It is simply...well, dismal.

* * *

SAN Miguel is the only manufacturing firm which is expanding—and aggressively at that! Despite the economic crisis, its profit continues to climb.

As such, the company attracts bigtime stockholders, both foreign and local such as Japan's Kirin and our own Henry Sy.

Moneyed and all, nevertheless, those groups can always look out for their investments. They have the influence, connection, and what have you.

But San Miguel also happens to be one of the all-time favorite issues in the stock market. This means it has a multitude of small stockholders.

They are the retirees, pension funds, etc. In short, the PUBLIC. The PCGG knows exactly what to do with the money of the public. And that is, burn it!

* * *

FOR that matter, in running any business, the track record of the government is dismal. Just take a look at the yearbook BusinessWorld Top 1000 Corporations.

It listed 13 government-owned corporations, which together already accumulated losses of about P120 billion.

Again, that's P120 billion. The government lost all that money, while it ran only 13 or so businesses.

Of course you know what P120 billion can do. It can put up enough capital to create several commercial banks.

Alright, you win, the money can really create a separate republic!

* * *

ASIDE from the handsome losses of the government corporations, private think-tanks now worry about their indebtedness. Their loans alone can bury us all alive.

What's more, those loans do not show in the books of the national government as direct liabilities. They are called "contingent."

In other words, the loans will just kill us one day, and we will not even know what hit us. Well, the loans only amount to P500 billion. Peanuts!

And I will give you one good guess who, in the end, when all those sheets of paper hit the fan, must shoulder all those losses and pay for all those debts.

No, it's not anybody in the Cabinet, not even their hangers-on, although a good number of them make a lot of money on the side.

The losses are always charged to taxpayers. Bet on it, you and I must pay for all those losses. Oops— that's the public again.

* * *

NO different in managing companies under its, er, "care" is the raucous PCGG. Take a look at just one company—United Coconut Planters Bank or UCPB.

By some court decision... which said the bank belongs to the government, the PCGG just acquired complete control of the bank. Again!

The PCGG was also in complete control of the bank from 1986 to 1998. What did the PCGG nominees do? Well, they gave out a lot of bad loans. Oh, only P40 billion!

In 1998, the group of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco took over the bank, but only for two years, because the bank went back to—what else—PCGG control.

Danding is claiming 7-percent ownership of the bank. The court just said that even his 7 percent belongs to the government. This is probably just fine with Danding.

You see, the bank is insolvent. Good golly, it is bankrupt. In taking ownership of the bank entirely, the government must inject capital. That's also our money, by the way.

* * *

THAT business daily Business World reported that in 1986, when the PCGG took over UCPB, the bank had some P5 billion in loans.

By the time the PCGG was through in 1998, the total lendings reached something like P65 billion.

About P40 billion of those lendings are now considered as "bad loans." This, in banking, simply means that you incur huge losses.

They all happened during the watch of the PCGG. Thus, the bank's savior, the PDIC, is conducting an audit to find out who should go to jail.

And here comes the PCGG, starring this bigshot commissioner, a certain Ruben Carranza, telling us the good news that they will take over San Miguel.

* * *

IN media nowadays, you see, the PCGG talks a lot about the San Miguel takeover, courtesy of that one Carranza. What is that—caller of the money?

Anyway, the way that guy talks, it's as if, all of a sudden, the PCGG can have its way with a company like San Miguel.

Maybe you wonder what explains all that noise. For one, my spy tells me that PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac is not happy about some cases of the PCGG in court.

She even sends memos to Carranza, according to my info, about the PCGG's lack of performance, for instance, in the criminal cases against Imelda Marcos.

Yorac actually worries about the PCGG's utter lack of evidence in those cases. In reaction to Yorac's memos, Carranza calls for meetings left and right.

* * *

BUT of course the public does not need to know about those major problems of the PCGG. The public must be given false hope, instead.

That, I think, partly explains all that noise. In other words, the PCGG is not telling us the whole truth.

The PCGG bigshots just tell us what they want us to know, which is of course only good for them, or their chosen candidate for 2004.

Apparently, they are also able to sell their propaganda line to Gloriaetta herself. Nowadays she is given to wistful thinking, which is masked by ecstatic talking.

Gloriaetta talks a lot about what this cute administration can do with that P36 billion. Will somebody tell us, please, just how soon can we get it?

* * *

THAT amount, allegedly, is a small part of the huge Marcos wealth which the Supreme Court just forfeited in favor of the government.

It only amounts to $650 million, and it is said to be deposited in some Swiss banks in the name of some foundations.

Alright, the Supreme Court already ruled on the money on its own. It is called "summary" judgment. Down here, it simply known as *"ah, basta."*

The case was actually with the Sandiganbayan. The government only went to the Supreme Court because the Sandiganbayan wanted the government to prove its case.

Now, the thing is, the next step for the government is, it must go to the Swiss Federal Supreme Court to present our Supreme Court's ruling.

* * *

FROM what I gathered, the Swiss court laid down certain conditions on the "final" ruling of our Supreme Court.

One has something to do with United Nations rules on court rulings, hearings, and such. Fairness, in short, which needs a lot of evidence and such.

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## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 23, 2003)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 19.25 | 19.5 | 19 | 19.5 | 80,900 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 48 | 48.5 | 48 | 48.5 | 334,200 |
| China Banking Corp. | 630 | 630 | 630 | 630 | 380 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 2,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 34 | 34.5 | 34 | 34 | 73,700 |
| First E-Bank Corp. | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 50,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 31.5 | 31.5 | 31 | 31 | 233,600 |
| Philippine National Bank | 26 | 27.5 | 26 | 27 | 387,900 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 14.5 | 14.5 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 34,500 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 11,700 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 22.5 | 22.5 | 22.5 | 22.5 | 220,200 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1.44 | 1.44 | 1.44 | 1.44 | 220,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1500 | 1500 | 1500 | 1500 | 570 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1.32 | 1.34 | 1.28 | 1.32 | 1,094,000 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1050 | 1065 | 1050 | 1065 | 2,040 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 21.75 | 21.75 | 21.5 | 21.5 | 24,200 |
| Diversified Fin. Network | 3 | 3 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 10,000 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 3,260,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 730 | 730 | 715 | 715 | 14,810 |
| Ipeople Inc. | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 50,000 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.0575 | 0.0575 | 3,000,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.038 | 0.039 | 0.034 | 0.034 | 25,900,000 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 37,000 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 0.62 | 0.63 | 0.59 | 0.6 | 9,800,000 |
| Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 50,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 565 | 565 | 555 | 555 | 288,370 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 400,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.014 | 0.015 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 95,100,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 12.75 | 12.75 | 12.25 | 12.5 | 309,200 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 18.5 | 18.5 | 18 | 18.25 | 1,361,500 |
| Petron Corp. | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.16 | 2.16 | 2,911,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 6,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 706,000 |
| Negros Navigation Co. Inc. | 0.47 | 0.48 | 0.47 | 0.48 | 60,000 |
| William, Gothong & Aboitiz | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 8,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 710,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.85 | 2.85 | 50,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.25 | 17.5 | 320,300 |
| Swift Food Inc. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 950,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 52 | 53 | 52 | 53 | 112,900 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 61 | 62 | 61 | 62 | 67,800 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc. | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 1,000 |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 60,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 4.9 | 5 | 4.9 | 4.95 | 27,017,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 983,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.044 | 0.044 | 0.041 | 0.041 | 11,400,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.74 | 0.74 | 140,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | 0.085 | 0.105 | 0.085 | 0.09 | 12,600,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.007 | 0.007 | 0.007 | 0.007 | 4,000,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 200,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 1.9 | 1.94 | 1.9 | 1.94 | 35,000 |
| ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp. | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 15,000 |
| Balabac Resources & Hldgs | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 120,000 |
| Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 500,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.78 | 0.79 | 39,840,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.14 | 0.195 | 0.14 | 0.16 | 5,820,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.21 | 0.215 | 2,620,000 |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.06 | 0.075 | 0.06 | 0.065 | 4,900,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 7,790,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp | 17.25 | 17.25 | 16.5 | 16.5 | 873,300 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.15 | 0.17 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 25,260,000 |
| House of Investments Inc. | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 70,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 1.84 | 1.88 | 1.56 | 1.66 | 1,968,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc | 1.8 | 1.82 | 1.8 | 1.82 | 3,925,000 |
| Marsteel Cons. Inc. B | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 1,500,000 |
| Medco Holdings | 0.042 | 0.042 | 0.042 | 0.042 | 100,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.82 | 0.84 | 0.81 | 0.81 | 4,340,000 |
| Mabuhay Holdings Corp. | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 60,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.34 | 0.35 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 9,850,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.49 | 0.49 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 9,350,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.1 | 0.15 | 0.1 | 0.15 | 110,000 |
| East Asia Power Res. Corp. | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 1,000,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1.02 | 97,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 350,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.31 | 0.32 | 0.31 | 0.32 | 170,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 16.75 | 17 | 16.5 | 17 | 731,800 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.62 | 0.63 | 0.61 | 0.63 | 930,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 100,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 610,000 |
| Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.28 | 0.29 | 1,220,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 220,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr) | 21.75 | 21.75 | 21.5 | 21.75 | 549,100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 2,000 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 800 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 2,600 |
| Philweb Corp. - Warrants | 0.0024 | 0.0024 | 0.0022 | 0.0022 | 16,000,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 6.6 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 6.9 | 8,743,000 |
| Araneta Properties Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 20,000 |
| C&P Homes Inc. | 0.25 | 0.27 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 3,730,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.215 | 0.215 | 0.2 | 0.205 | 11,930,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.27 | 0.29 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 48,490,000 |
| Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc. | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 20,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.18 | 1.2 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 4,927,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 130,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.225 | 0.225 | 8,210,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 2,560,000 |
| Primex Corp. | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 10,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 2.04 | 2.04 | 2.04 | 2.04 | 26,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 3,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 3,211,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 1,100,000 |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc B | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.12 | 0.15 | 280,000 |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.004 | 0.004 | 0.004 | 0.004 | 55,000,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 260,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 8,000,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 45,000,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.004 | 0.004 | 0.004 | 0.004 | 1,000,000 |
| Polar Mines & Dev't Corp. | 0.018 | 0.018 | 0.018 | 0.018 | 3,500,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Imperial Res. | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.015 | 1,000,000 |
| Interport Res. | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 0.0034 | 27,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 100,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 1,000,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.032 | 0.033 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 4,500,000 |
| South China Resources Inc. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 200,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.165 | 20,000 |

## DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank announced the appointment of Rolando Rodriguez as executive vice president of the bank.

* * *

MEMBERS of MacroAsia Corp.'s nomination committee are Washington Sycip, Mariano Tanenglian, Hans Sy and Marivic Moya while audit committee members are Jaime Bautista, George Sycip and Sy. Compensation committee members are Sy, Joseph Chua and Bautista.

* * *

SERAFIN Linda was appointed compliance officer of Island Information and Technology Inc. Nomination committee members are Andres Lao Sr., Roman Pacia, Marilou Faustino, Salvador del Mundo and Rodolfo de Guzman. Compensation and remuneration committee is composed of Andres Lao Jr., Linda, Eliza Shih, Del Mundo and De Guzman while Lao Sr., Lao Jr., Linda, Del Mundo and De Guzman are members of the audit committee.

* * *

MEDCO Holdings Inc. denied having any information to explain the 50-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.028 to P0.042 per share.

* * *

SOUTHEAST Asia Cement Holdings Inc. said that except for its duly disclosed transfer of interest in FR Cement Corp. and Lloyds Richfield Industrial Corp. for a 26.8-percent stake in Republic Cement Corp., it has no other information to explain the 50-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.04 to P0.06 per share.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Centro Escolar University were Emilio Yap, Ernesto Echauz, Rosita Navarro, Carmelita La O, Lucila Tiongco, Andrew Gonzalez, Josephine Lichauco, Emil Javier and Corazon Tiongco. ***Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

## CURRENCIES

| July 23, 2003<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.882457 | 1.000000 | 53.830000 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007414 | 0.008401 | 0.452200 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.409460 | 1.597200 | 85.977300 |
| Hongkong | Dollar | 0.113154 | 0.128226 | 6.902400 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.648196 | 0.734538 | 39.540200 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.623468 | 0.706514 | 38.031600 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.502538 | 0.569476 | 30.654900 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.574142 | 0.650618 | 35.022800 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.340796 | 2.652590 | 142.788900 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.235322 | 0.266667 | 14.354700 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.501111 | 0.567859 | 30.567800 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000105 | 0.000119 | 0.006400 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.021092 | 0.023901 | 1.286600 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.240268 | 0.272272 | 14.656400 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.133200 | 61.000200 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.317430 | 0.359712 | 19.363300 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.306515 | 0.347343 | 18.697500 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134521 | 0.152439 | 8.205800 |
| India | Rupee | 0.019163 | 0.021716 | 1.169000 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.232238 | 0.263172 | 14.166500 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.084583 | 0.095850 | 5.159600 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.506693 | 0.574185 | 30.908400 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.119728 | 0.135676 | 7.303400 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.015312 | 0.017352 | 0.934100 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.116803 | 0.132361 | 7.125000 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000746 | 0.000845 | 0.045500 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.107852 | 0.122218 | 6.579000 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.021011 | 0.023810 | 1.281700 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.025720 | 0.029146 | 1.568900 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000553 | 0.000627 | 0.033800 |

# Canadian energy firm to focus operations on RP oil projects

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

A CANADIAN petroleum exploration firm announced Tuesday it was focusing its operations "on its significant potential in the Philippines" after a $10-million (about P500 million) buy-in into a local exploration company.

Alberta-based Forum Energy Corp., formerly Tracer Petroleum Corp., has also changed its name apparently after acquiring a 66-percent stake in Forum Exploration Inc.

In a letter to stockholders, Forum Energy chief executive Larry Youell said the Philippine acquisition provided the firm access to "some of the most exciting and prospective areas" in the country.

Youell said the firm has raised $2 million through private placement by issuing 20 million shares at $0.10 each to develop these contract areas.

He said the Nasdaq-listed company, which had been active in petroleum exploration and production in Canada and Indonesia, had trimmed its other projects as it turned its focus on the Philippines.

The official said that with the purchase of a stake in Forum Exploration, Forum Energy's current petroleum assets were estimated at a net present value of $51 million, "but the optimistic value is close to $500 million."

In a statement issued last February, Youell said the Canadian company was attracted to invest in the Philippines because of the $4.5-billion Malampaya deepwater gas-to-power project, which involved such major companies as Royal Dutch/Shell, ChevronTexaco and British Gas.

Yesterday, the Department of Energy said Forum Exploration had resumed drilling activities with the Forum 1-X well in northern Cebu.

In a bulletin dated July 22, the DOE said the initial plan was to deepen the well to another 1,000 feet or about 305 meters. Previous drilling reached a depth of 1,010 feet before activities were suspended last June 16.

Earlier this month, Forum Energy said indications of two potential reservoir zones of oil and gas were found during onshore drilling in Daanbantayan town.

Youell had said the oil and gas shows that were encountered during the drilling were validated by further instrument tests.

The oil executive explained that the deepening program was expected to test two geologic formations that were "proven oil-bearing structure(s)."

Forum1-X is the first of three exploratory wells under Service Contract No. 40, which covers the northern half of Cebu and part of the Visayan Sea to the west.

Forum Exploration is also working to secure a geophysical survey and exploration contract that covers 1.28 million hectares in Manila Bay and West Central Luzon.

The remaining 33 percent of Forum Exploration was retained by holding company Forum Pacific Inc. (formerly Air Philippines International Corp.), which is listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

# Lukewarm response greets Cashrounds listing

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

SHARES of web-based private placement broker Cashrounds Inc. inched up by 2 centavos on thin trade during the company's debut on the small and medium enterprise board of the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

Given the lukewarm interest, the share price of Cashrounds closed only marginally higher at P1.02 from the offering price of P1 a share. Only 60,000 shares exchanged hands valued at P61,000.

"The timing is not right. The bullish trend in the market is about to take a respite. Besides, the industry it's in, investment banking, is not exciting at this time because of of the long wait for returns," said stockbroker Joseph Roxas of Eagle Equities Inc.

Cashrounds was the second company to list on the PSE this year after sister-company Makati Finance Corp.

Both Cashrounds and Makati Finance are subsidiaries of investment house Amalgamated Investment Bancorporation (AIB).

Cashrounds, the first online broker of private equity for SMEs, sold 8 million new common shares at P1 each, equivalent to 28.57 percent of its total stock.

The estimated net IPO proceeds of P6.2 million will be used to:

- increase marketing and promotion activities to widen awareness of and promote IT-enabled, on-line financial services among its target markets;
- upgrade its software and hardware components, and
- strengthen its permanent working capital in anticipation of increased business activity in the coming years.

The offer shares were underwritten on a firm basis by Abacus Capital and Investment Corp.

Cashrounds was incorporated on June 5, 1996, as MF Schroder & Co. Inc., initially to engage in the purchase and sale of securities. In 2000, AIB expanded the services of the company by establishing an IT-enabled facility geared toward servicing the private equity needs of SMEs by matching them on-line with direct equity investors.

## INTEREST RATES

| July 23, 2003-<br>MART1 Rates<br>Benchmark Interest Rates | MART1<br>23-Jul-03 | MART1<br>22-Jul-03 |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Month | 6.2304 | 6.2736 |
| 3 Months | 6.2143 | 6.275 |
| 6 Months | 6.721 | 6.8 |
| 1 Year | 7.2038 | 7.3159 |
| 2 Years | 8.6567 | 8.6233 |
| 3 Years | 9.335 | 9.2617 |
| 4 Years | 9.8 | 9.8143 |
| 5 Years | 10.0231 | 10.0033 |
| 7 Years | 10.9333 | 10.9339 |
| 10 Years | 11.2723 | 11.2957 |
| 20 Years | 11.9342 | 11.9358 |
| 25 Years | 12.2833 | 12.2767 |

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Refundable Cash Deposit of P5,000 upon registration

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- Computer Monitors
- Stainless Steel Softdrink Dispenser
- Stainless Steel Food Warmer
- Stainless Steel Water Purifier
- Stainless Steel 2 Burner Gas Stove
- Stainless Steel Vault
- Stainless Steel Filing Shelves
- Food Trays
- Fax Machines
- Dining Tables
- Working Production Tables
- Copying Machines

ELECTRICAL ITEMS
- DVD, VHS, VCD Players & Components
- Discman Players
- Vacuum Cleaners
- Refrigerators
- Washing Machines
- Microwave Ovens
- Spot Lights
- Air Conditioning Units
- Battery Chargers

TOOLS INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT
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- Industrial Exhaust Fans
- Lawn Mower
- Automatic Voltage Regulators
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### NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

**July 28, 2003**

Please be notified that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Petron Corporation will be held on July 28, 2003, Monday at 9:00 a.m. at the Fiesta Pavillion, Manila Hotel, One Rizal Park, Manila, with the following agenda:

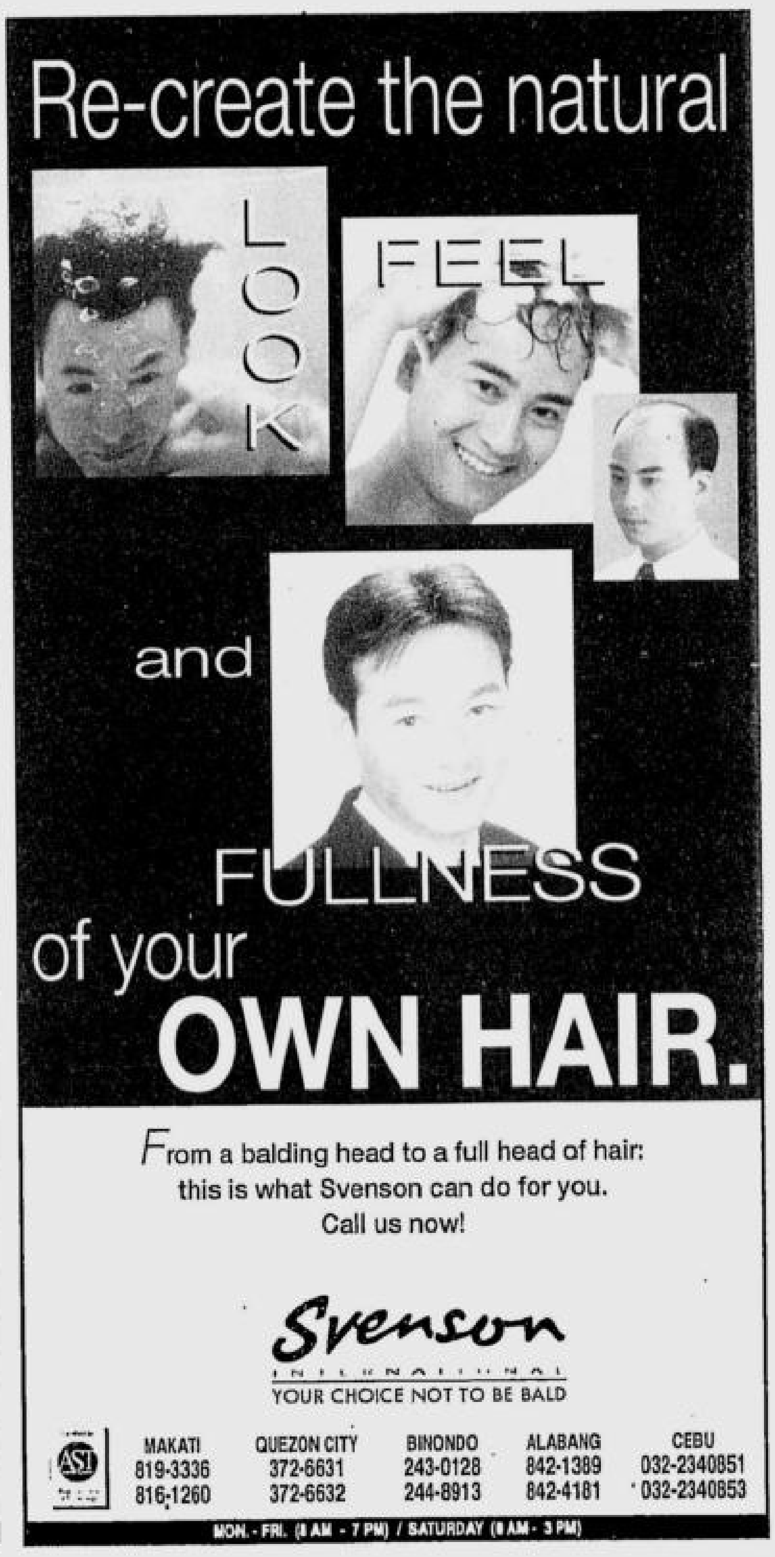
1. Call to Order
2. Report on Attendance and Quorum
3. Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Stockholders' Meeting
4. Management Report to Stockholders for the year 2002
5. Ratification of all acts of the Board of Directors and Management during the year 2002.
6. Appointment of Independent Auditor.
7. Election of Board of Directors for the ensuing term.
8. Such other business as may properly come before it.

Minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' meeting on July 29, 2002 will be distributed during registration.

The Board of Directors has fixed May 29, 2003 as the record date to determine the stockholders entitled to notice and to vote at said annual meeting.

Please bring your Notice/Stockholders Identification Slip and any form of identification, i.e., Driver's license, Company ID, Tin Card, etc. to facilitate registration. Registration starts at 7 a.m. and closes at exactly 8:30 a.m. The meeting is expected to end at 11 a.m.

LIBERADOR V. VILLEGAS
Corporate Secretary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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

# US economy on the mend; Europe, Japan lag

WASHINGTON—Treasury Secretary John Snow said on Tuesday the US economy was poised for a sharp acceleration in growth but Europe and Japan were lagging.

In a brace of television interviews in New York at the end of a day privately wooing top Wall analysts, the US Treasury chief implied the Bush administration had its economic house in order while key allies had to do more.

"I think the biggest problem we face today on the economic side of things is inadequate world growth rates, particularly the big economies—Japan and Europe," Snow said on CNN television after predicting "a substantial pick-up" in US economic performance for the rest of this year.

The US economy grew at a sluggish 1.4 percent rate in the first quarter of this year and is forecast to have done little better when second-quarter figures become available, but Snow foresaw growth speeding up to annual rates of 3 percent to 4 percent in the second half.

Snow, as the Bush administration's top economic spokesman, is leading a group of cabinet members including Commerce Secretary Don Evans and Labor Secretary Elaine Chao on a two-day bus tour of Minnesota and Wisconsin next week to claim credit for improved economic prospects ahead.

Snow held two closed sessions in New York on Tuesday, meeting officials from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and from big banks and brokerages before taking to the airwaves to offer an optimistic assessment of future expansion.

On Fox News Channel, Snow conceded there was still some hangover on US economic performance from the Iraqi war and the continuing attacks on US soldiers there.

But, he said, "the larger performance of the American economy depends on what goes on here and I think that we're seeing real good signs that this economy is beginning to take off."

In response to questions, Snow said it was more important to make existing tax reductions the Bush administration has won into permanent cuts than to come up with new ones.

"I think what we need to do as a priority is to make the tax reductions ... permanent," Snow said, rather than having them expire after a period of time as some are currently scheduled to do.

That is expected to be one theme of next week's bus tour, as Snow and other administration chieftains remind taxpayers ahead of next year's presidential elections about the Bush administration's successful bid for $350 billion of tax cuts.

Snow repeated on CNBC television that he and President George W. Bush supported a strong dollar. Snow also said he saw signs that emerging trade giant China, which pegs its yuan currency to the dollar, appeared more willing than in the past to widen the trading band.

US manufacturers have complained that China is protecting an unfair trade advantage by keeping its currency closely pegged to the dollar so their exports remain cheaper in US and other foreign markets.

While pushing for Europe and Japan to do all they can to match better US economic prospects, Snow offered a word of encouragement to Tokyo where the government of Junichiro Koizumi has been struggling to lift the Japanese economy out of a decade-long slump. *Reuters*

## Japan activity data boosts growth hopes

TOKYO—A key measure of Japanese business activity rose in May from the previous month, though by less than expected, the latest in a string of evidence pointing to the possibility of a mild pickup in the economy.

The all-industries activity index, a barometer of activity in sectors such as construction and manufacturing, rose 0.2 percent, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said on Wednesday.

A poll by Reuters journalists last week had produced a median forecast of a 0.4 percent rise. The index had fallen 0.6 percent the previous month.

"The all-industries figures have been a series of pluses and minuses since the beginning of this year," said Shuji Shirota, economist at Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein. "That shows that Japan's economy is continuing to be flat." The figures will nevertheless add to evidence that at least the world's second-largest economy is not getting worse, and may even signal a cautious recovery, though caveats remain.

Last week, the Bank of Japan gave a slightly more optimistic view of economic conditions at home on a better outlook for exports, its first upgrade in a year.

But the report showed the BOJ's basic assessment that conditions were flat had not changed. Its report came just days after the government kept its own cautious view unchanged. *Reuters*

**A Chinese vendor counts his money in Beijing. China's economy grew a stunted 6.7 percent in the second quarter from a year earlier as the SARS virus had a sharp but transient impact on the world's sixth-biggest economy, the State Statistical Bureau said recently.** REUTERS

## Asian stocks up on good tech earnings

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks mostly rose on Wednesday on news of good US earnings and the death of two sons of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, but the dollar's gains from the Iraq news faded amid criticism of Japanese intervention.

Oil prices rebounded after plunging on Tuesday, undermined by expectations of an end to looting and sabotage at Iraq's oil facilities. Gold was a touch firmer.

Japanese shares rose more than one percent on hopes for stronger steel company profits, while an MSCI index of shares elsewhere in Asia Pacific was up 0.1 percent by late afternoon.

Nippon Steel Corp., Japan's biggest steel maker, jumped 7.1 percent after Tokyo Steel Manufacturing Co. raised its profit outlook for 2003/04, citing strong exports and higher-than-expected product prices and sales.

The Nikkei average closed 1.36 percent higher at 9,615.34, bouncing off Tuesday's three-week low.

Technology issues firmed in Tokyo and some other Asian markets after solid earnings from Texas Instruments Inc., the top maker of microchips for mobile phones, helped push the Nasdaq index up 1.5 percent on Wall Street.

Investors also cheered news of a narrower quarterly loss at top Internet retailer Amazon.com Inc, whose shares rose in after-hours trade.

Taiwan, Singapore and Australia were up 0.5 to 0.6 percent.

But Hong Kong had fallen 0.4 percent by midday as China-related stocks slid after a recent rally.

South Korea closed 0.6 percent lower as SK Telecom Co. tumbled eight percent on fears it was it helping to bail out its troubled sister firm, SK Global Co.

The dollar hit a three-week high of 119.39 yen in New York trade following the news about Hussein's sons, but made no headway in Asia following the rise in Japanese stocks and critical remarks from G7 officials about Japan's currency intervention.

US Treasury Secretary John Snow said on Wednesday that intervention in the foreign exchange market should be kept to a minimum, a comment the market interpreted as a retreat from his recent positive remarks about Japanese intervention. *Reuters*

## *Mobile phone business stuck in a rut*

CHICAGO/AMSTERDAM—A week of chilling earnings showed mobile phone makers are caught in a squeeze between price competition and a failure to sell fancy models with cameras, games and calendars.

Quarterly earnings from four of the five biggest handset makers paint a gloomy picture of a sector where a trickle of growth goes straight down the drain with increasingly steep price cuts.

Hesitant consumers shaken by a weak economy are not interested in buying the most expensive models, Jorma Ollila, chief executive of the world's largest mobile phone maker, Nokia , said this week.

If they do, these phones have complex software which is expensive to develop, he added.

With Nokia, Motorola Inc., Samsung Electronics, Sony Ericsson and numerous other companies all vying for market share, the wireless operators are gaining the upper hand in setting phone prices.

In developing countries like China, which are generating the fastest growth, local manufacturers who sell their phones at cutthroat prices are squeezing out foreign makers.

After mobile phone sales slowed down in 2001, the industry looked to be recovering.

Gartner Dataquest estimates the $64 billion mobile phone industry sold 423 million units in 2002 vs. 412 million in 2001. The research firm expects the industry to sell more than 440 million phones in 2003.

The No. 2 mobile phone maker, Motorola, reported 13 percent lower handset sales in the second quarter. Korea's Samsung, the No. 3 mobile phone maker, sold 12 million handsets in the second quarter—a million fewer than expected. It hopes to catch up in the third.

Japanese-Swedish joint venture Sony Ericsson was the only one sounding an upbeat note, boasting that its new models were at last catching on as it sold 85 percent more GSM phones, based on the globally dominant technology standard, than in the year-ago period. *Reuters*

## Colgate profit up 10% in Q2

CHICAGO—Colgate-Palmolive Co., maker of products ranging from soap to dog food, on Tuesday said profit rose 10 percent in the second quarter as new products and the weaker dollar helped boost sales.

The improved results continued a trend for the maker of Colgate toothpaste, Hill's Science Diet pet food and a host of other products, which has posted some of the steadiest earnings growth in the sector in recent years.

Colgate has been helped by a pipeline of new products, including Simply White teeth-whitening gel. Higher sales and margins have allowed the company to increase advertising.

"They're just introducing a lot of new products," said Joseph Altobello, as analyst at CIBC World Markets. "Simply White is still helping them out. And overseas they continue to take (market) share." Altobello has a "sector performer" rating on the stock.

The New York-based company posted second-quarter profit of $359.8 million, or 62 cents a share, compared with $327 million, or 55 cents a share, a year earlier.

Analysts' average forecast was 62 cents a share, according to Reuters Research, a unit of Reuters Group Plc.

Sales rose 7 percent to $2.46 billion. Most of Colgate's sales come from outside North America, and the weak dollar boosted sales in Asia and Europe as sales in local currencies were worth more when translated to dollars. *Reuters*

## Asia, Europe to call for WTO talks

DALIAN, China—Asian and European economic ministers gathering in China hope to send a strong signal on the need to revive stalled negotiations, ahead of crucial global trade talks this fall, officials and delegates said Wednesday.

The Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) of economic ministers in the northeastern city of Dalian comes just weeks before the World Trade Organization (WTO) will seek to revive stalled global trade talks in Cancun, Mexico.

"If the ASEM meeting can send a positive signal to the Cancun meeting, then its contribution will be fully realized," Chinese Assistant Commerce Minister Yi Xiaozhun said.

"The economic ministers will be able to jointly discuss the problems that have emerged in the process of negotiation by exhanging views and striving to reach consensus on some issues," he said.

Delegates agreed that the ASEM economic ministers' meeting would be a significant opportunity to express commitment to global trade liberalization and iron out differences ahead of the September talks in Mexico.

However, it would not be easy to reach consensus, given the diversity of the Asian members of ASEM.

"You have developed countries similar to Europe, such as Japan," he said. "And you have developing countries, and among these, countries that are WTO members and others that are not." *AFP*

## Boeing shuffles space systems

ST. LOUIS, Missouri—Boeing moved to reorganize its space and rocket launch units Tuesday, one week after it announced a $1.1 billion second-quarter charge for its struggling space business.

The move comes on the eve of the Chicago-based aerospace giant's second-quarter results, expected Wednesday morning.

Within the company's larger defense group, Boeing satellite systems will become part of the space and intelligence systems unit.

The company's expendable launch program will be subordinated to the Air Force systems group.

Other space-related work will be folded into Boeing's NASA division. On July 16, Boeing said that it has all but given up on commercial space launches for the next five years.

Executives echoed that language this week.

"The commercial space market has eroded to a point where it is no longer a driving factor in either our satellite or our launch services business," said Jim Albaugh, the head of Boeing's Integrated Defense Systems group, which is going to be responsible for half of the company's revenue.

The changes will have a "minimal impact" on employment, the company said.

Boeing is still cutting jobs, however, in its core aircraft manufacturing division. Last week, another 5,000 were announced. *AFP*

# US investors may have seen best stock gains for the year

NEW YORK—A little more than halfway through the year, stock investors may already have seen the best the market has to offer for 2003.

With a 22 percent gain for the Standard & Poor's 500 index since its low on March 11, investors will need to see more evidence that both the economy and earnings will continue to improve if shares are to keep moving higher this year, market watchers said.

Without that evidence, investors say stocks could still inch higher, but will not be able to duplicate their performance from the first half of the year. And with the dollar recovering against the euro, there is one less positive factor to underpin earnings growth and stock prices.

"The key is the economy and do we see continued evidence, or speculation, that the economy is improving," said Tim Ghriskey, a money manager with Bedford Hills, New York-based Ghriskey Capital Partners LLC.

Supporting the market during the past quarter was the euphoria of a speedy conclusion to the war in Iraq, optimism a weaker dollar would help exports and new tax cuts to help bolster demand and investors' spirits.

But the strong upward momentum in stock prices in recent months indicates to some that investors may have jumped ahead of earnings expectations.

Though bolstering optimism, earnings for the past quarter are also lagging behind the 7 percent average growth of the last 50 years.

With some 197 S&P 500 companies having reported earnings so far, according to Cooper, average profit growth is 10.1 percent. But adding in the estimates for those companies that have yet to report, Cooper is forecasting profit growth of just 6.7 percent for the quarter.

That number looks even worse when the effect of a weaker dollar is considered.

First Call estimates the drop in the dollar, which boosts results as it makes overseas earnings worth more when converted into dollars, may have contributed as much as 2 percent of the growth in second-quarter earnings.

Two Dow components in recent days, conglomerate 3M Corp. and drugmaker Merck & Co. attributed increases in their sales to favorable foreign exchange factors—which is unlikely to be repeated as the dollar rallies against the euro.

Yet analysts continue to push forecasts higher, based in part on the second quarter experience, as well as the economic expectations for the second half.

Profit growth in the third quarter is now expected to be 13.6 percent, up from 12.7 percent on July 1 and 21.6 percent growth in the last quarter, up from 21.3 percent on July 1.

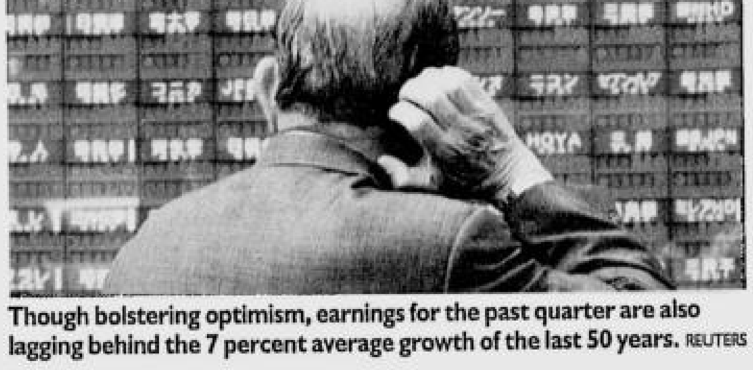
To be sure, investors who missed the big gains for the year could see upside, investors say.

While the third quarter is historically the worst for the S&P 500, the fourth quarter has, on average, been the best.

"We won't see huge jumps from where we are now, but we will slowly trade higher," said Charles Ryan, an equity analyst with North Carolina-based BB&T Asset Management Inc., which oversees $11 billion.

Ryan, who is recommending "overweight" positions in technology and financial stocks, is forecasting stocks will rise another 5 percent by year end, if only because low interest rates and cost cutting means companies are operating in a better environment than they were in six months ago.

And as Ghriskey said: "Just because the market has moved up, does not mean (it) cannot move higher." *Reuters*



**Though bolstering optimism, earnings for the past quarter are also lagging behind the 7 percent average growth of the last 50 years.** REUTERS

# July inflation rate seen at 3%

THE INFLATION rate is expected to drop to 3 percent in July, after hitting a 16-month high of 3.4 percent in June, as prices of basic goods including fuel and electricity remained stable, according to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The National Economic Development Authority has the same projection but both Buenaventura and Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the estimate was not official. They said their respective research groups were still finalizing the July inflation projection.

"I don't know what the impact of the recent typhoon would be," Buenaventura said.

In June, the BSP estimated inflation to range from 2.6 to 2.8 percent while Neda thought it would be between 2.7 and 2.8 percent. The actual inflation figure in June, however, was higher at 3.4 percent.

In June, a week-long typhoon reportedly damaged farm output and led to higher prices, particularly of vegetables. The recent typhoon is feared to have a similar effect on the July inflation as it hit Baguio and Ilocos, both are agricultural areas.

"I think the prices are relatively stable. We did not see extraordinary movement in food, fuel and electricity prices," said the Neda chief in an interview.

The central bank said the June inflation rate, which was the highest since February 2002, was a blip and would not affect the full-year inflation project of about 3 percent.

A benign inflation outlook had prompted the central bank's Monetary Board to cut its policy rates by 25 basis points last July 2 to its lowest level since May 1992.

Diwa Guinigundo, head of the central bank's economic research, said earlier that the BSP might have failed to factor in the full impact of the strong typhoons last month on other food prices aside from rice.

He said that despite the uptick in inflation last month, the six-month average remained at 2.95 percent or well within the expectations of the BSP. *Clarissa S. Batino*

# Customs starts auto tax ammesty program

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE BUREAU of Customs has launched a tax and tariff amnesty program for buyers of imported motor vehicles, including those from auctions held in Subic, who did not pay the proper taxes and duties.

The program gives buyers of these vehicles to legitimize their acquisition through a voluntary payment program until Nov. 30.

In line with this, the bureau has suspended operations involving confiscation of motor vehicles that were not taxed properly.

The voluntary payment scheme, according to Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo, will cover motor vehicles that arrived in the country on or before Dec. 31, 2002.

"The order will likewise be applicable on vehicles originally imported by tax-exempted persons or entities under various tax exempt laws and subsequently sold, transferred or conveyed to non-tax exempt persons or entities without the payment of proper duties, taxes and fees," based on Customs AO 5-2003.

Finance Undersecretary Gracia Pulido-Tan said the Customs had also issued two other administrative orders that provided the guidelines on the disposition of seized and forfeited right-hand drives as well as the establishment of special customs bonded warehouse conversion facilities for right-hand drive vehicles.

"The orders issued by Customs are in line with the government's drive to stamp out vehicle smuggling, particularly in ports like Subic," said Tan. Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho in May formed an inter-agency team to investigate the rampant smuggling of cars and other vehicles in Subic and other ports.

Car assemblers alleged that a huge percentage of vehicles operating in the country are smuggled.

Customs AO 4-2003 provided for the auction of right-hand drive vehicles seized or forfeited as of the end of the month.

"We are conducting an inventory of the right-hand drives and once we have that we may have an estimate of how much we could raise from their sales," said the Customs chief.

# Transco expects P14B in income

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

STATE-OWNED National Transmission Corp. (Transco) yesterday said it expected to post more than P14.3 billion in net income by the end of this year.

Transco president Alan T. Ortiz said in an interview that the company's performance in the first half indicated that the target could be surpassed.

"If we annualize the yearend projections, we have earned more than half of the amount in the first six months," Ortiz said.

The official said the better-than-expected performance was due to greater efficiency of operations and the reduction of the workforce.

Transco records showed that its workforce decreased to 3,700, from about 4,000 employees, upon completion of the reorganization in Februrary.

Ortiz said Transco had no plans of borrowing for its financing needs as internal funds could see the company through the next three years.

In June, Ortiz said savings made from the retirement of some of its employees boosted first quarter income to P4 billion or 26 percent more than projections.

In a related development, energy officials last week said the bidding for the concession for the country's transmission system failed as there was only one investor who showed up for pre-qualification.

# Planters' group, A. Brown to put up palm oil mill

**By Christine A. Gaylican**

LISTED firm A. Brown Energy and Resource Dev't. Inc. (Aberdi) has formed a joint venture with farmers' group Oilpalm Industry Association to establish a P120-million palm oil milling facility in Misamis Oriental.

The Department of Agriculture said Aberdi, under a divestment scheme with private planters and organized small landholders, would be involved in the first palm oil milling facility in Northern Mindanao, which will have a capacity of 10 tons per hour.

The palm oil to be processed would be derived from a 4,000-hectare plantation to be run by private planters consisting of organized agrarian reform beneficiaries and small farmers. The plantation is expected to cost P280 million.

The Department of Agriculture said the development of this palm oil plantation and milling facility would curb the country's yearly palm oil imports amounting to about P3 billion.

Demand for palm oil in the domestic market, particularly from the fast-food and food canning industries, has been rising, the DA said.

The department said annual demand for palm oil was estimated at 94,400 metric tons while production was at 54,333 metric tons of palm oil. The rest is being imported.

The DA's credit agency, the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp., will finance 70 percent of the total project cost.

Lorenzo noted that the development of the palm oil industry would not displace coconut production—the country's top agriculture export—as the areas to be planted to palm oil are idle lands in Mindanao.

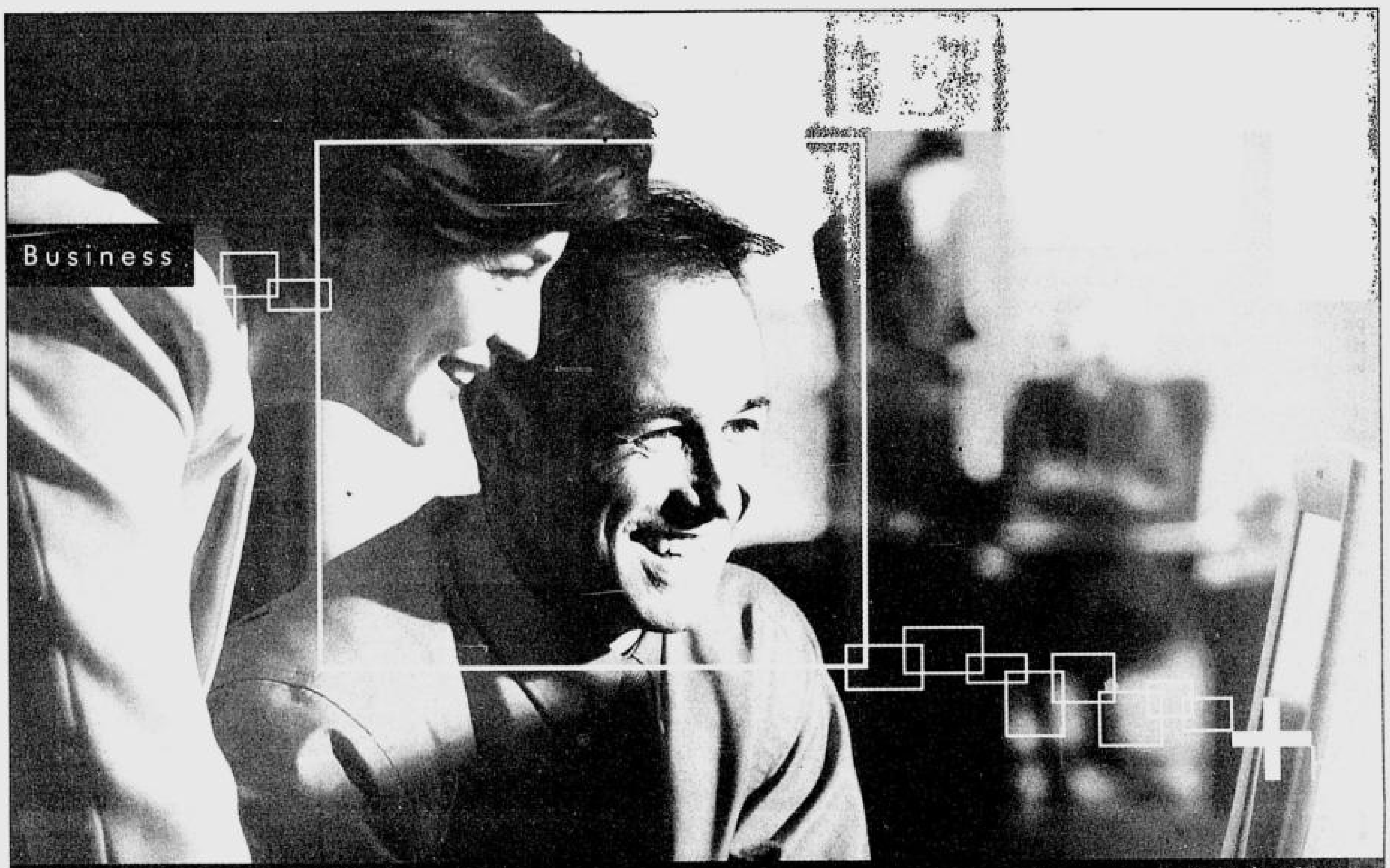
# BMAP launches banking magazine

THE BANK Marketing Association of the Philippines is launching today a new magazine that will focus on issues and concerns affecting the local banking industry.

Prime Magazine is starting its run with at least 5,000 copies that will be distributed starting this week in all bank branches all over the country. It will also be distributed in leading retail outlets and newsstands, including National Bookstore and Mag.net.

"The magazine will offer the public an untinted, uncurtained, unblocked window to the world of banking and finance. It is a business features magazine, an investment handbook, a lifestyle and leisure guide, and an events chronicler all rolled into one," according to Prime executive editor Roni Tapia-Merk.

Prime's maiden issue has, as its cover story, a feature article on the new anti-money laundering law. A primer on the new law is also inserted to help the banking public better understand how it will affect them.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3158, Series of 2003

Small and medium enterprises are a potent force in the war against poverty that will contribute to the equitable distribution of income and disperse economic activities to the countryside.

The National SME Development Plan endeavors to achieve two objectives:

§ Expansion of the enterprise by graduating micro and small enterprise to higher levels of business undertaking, and

§ Upgrading their productivity and value-added capabilities.

The basic strategies of the SME Development Plan will be a comprehensive approach to SME development, seamless access to government services, virtual organization, supply side push through non-government directed projects and localization of the Plan.

The elements of the Plan include training and human resource development, market development, product development and technology intervention, advocacy for enabling environment and financing.

...At the end of six months, what I'd like is that people will say in general, *Maraming pera sa* SME *ngayon. Maraming tulong sa* SME *ngayon.*

GMArroyo
- Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
February 2003, Malacanang Palace

*Sa pagtulong-tulong ng* private sector, *ng pamahalaan at kayo mismo ay maiaahon natin and ating sarili, ang ating pamilya at ang ating komunidad mula sa kahirapan. Iyan po ang layunin nitong programa na ito at sana tangkilikin ninyo ito.*

*Hindi ibig sabihin 'tangkilikin' na bilhin ninyo ang produkto; 'tangkilikin' ninyo, ibig sabihin mag-participate po tayo, samahin natin ito. Panimula pa lang ito.* I'm sure *na maraming mga* adjustment *ito dahil katulad ng lahat na negosyo, sa simula maraming maliliit na problema, kung minsan* late *ang* distribution, *kaunting pasensiya pero palaki ng palaki ito, makikita natin na ang* ingredients *ay nandiyan.*

*...Gusto ko lang sanang ipaabot na iisa ang ating kinabukasan, magsama-sama tayo, magtulong-tulong tayo para sa ating magandang kinabukasan."*

MAR Roxas
Secretary of Trade and Industry
June 2003, Tondo, Manila

NATIONAL SME AGENDA

# PGMA: SMEs key to economic growth and sustainable development

By Joel V. Nigos

IN developing countries like ours, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) play an increasingly crucial role in economic growth and sustainable development.

Their contribution to the nation's economy is tremendous. The SME sector comprises 99.6 percent of all the firms we have in the country. The sector also employs 69.9 percent of the labor force and makes up 60 percent of all exporters. In addition, it contributes 32 percent of gross-value added to the economy.

It is said that the strength of a nation's economy depends much on the ability of the domestic industry to absorb shocks from outside. Our domestic economy relies much on small and medium enterprises, which makes it very important that SMEs are given priority by the government.

Though the whole SME sector presents very bright figures, it is still not spared from the challenges posed by the current economic environment. The slowdown of export markets, stiff global competition, limited access to financing, limited access to technology and high cost of doing business are the main problems that need to be addressed.

No less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is aware of all these challenges SMEs face. As a result, she has made the National SME Agenda a priority strategy for economic development and a prime component of the nation's eight-point economic agenda.

The National SME Agenda, which the President envisions as a "potent force in the war against poverty," aims to build a vibrant SME sector that will provide a strong domestic supply base for globally competitive industries.

In more specific terms, the plan aims to graduate micro enterprises to small businesses and small businesses to medium enterprises, create new enterprises, strengthen SME Centers nationwide, and increase the SMEs productivity in terms of gross-value added from 32 percent to 40 percent. This would eventually help expand the sector.

To address head-on the problems of SMEs and to implement the National SME Agenda, the Small and Medium Enterprise Development (SMED) Council was strengthened. Chaired by Trade and Industry Secretary MAR Roxas, the SMED Council is the primary agency responsible for the promotion, growth and development of SMEs in the country by way of facilitating and closely coordinating national efforts to promote the viability and growth of small and medium enterprises. The Council is directly attached to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). This would effectively spur the growth and development of small and medium enterprises throughout the country.

SulongPinoy!
DTI-SME PROGRAM

## SMED Council membership

The SMED Council's membership includes the Director General of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the secretaries of Agriculture, Labor, Environment and Natural Resources, Science and Technology, and Tourism, the chairman of the Monetary Board, chairman of SB Corp., three representatives from the private sector, and one representative from the banking sector.

An SME Core Group, composed of representatives from various agencies, was also formed to help in the implementation of the National SME Agenda. Making up the core are representatives from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Regional Operations Group (ROG), Product Development and Design Center of the Philippines (PDDCP), Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC), Bureau of Domestic Trade Promotion (BDTP), Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprises Development (BSMED), Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC), Cottage Industries Technology Center (CITC), Small Business Corporation (SBC) and Project Monitoring Office (PMO).

The National SME Agenda has five specific components: training, marketing, product development and technology, advocacy for enabling environment, and financing. Though some aspects of SMEs had been addressed before, it has been recognized that the country's SMEs need a more integrated approach to their problems.

For the training component, a compendium of training programs has been developed, training programs are being streamlined and fees standardized.

## Business counselors

Part of the training component is the provision of business counseling on preparation of business plan, marketing, and appropriate training course. According to DTI Secretary MAR Roxas, DTI has been able to train 161 business counselors at SME Centers nationwide to provide these services. This will soon be augmented by volunteers from Financial Executives of the Philippines (Finex) and Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), who will give specialized business counseling. SME Centers are some kind of one-stop shops where entrepreneurs may go for information and business counseling.

Marketing assistance is offered in the form of promotion of products in domestic and foreign markets, and further exposure through trade fairs and buying and selling mission. An SME database with 14,000 SMEs has been developed for this purpose.

Under product development and technology, assistance is provided in product design and development, package design and development, product technology, design and technical information as well as HACCP, HALAL and ISO accreditation.

Under the advocacy for enabling environment, a continuing review of government rules and regulations is being conducted to reduce the cost of doing business and improve laws affecting SMEs, ensure implementation of RA 9178, otherwise known as the BMBE Law and to harmonize, simplify, and standardize business forms and fees among LGUs. As part of this component, DTI joined DILG in convening a Gathering of Business-Friendly Cities last April for the sharing of best practices.

A key element of the plan is financing. Under the SME Unified Lending Opportunities for National Growth (SULONG) Program, the government, through the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), National Livelihood Support Fund (NLSF), Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency (Philexim), Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation (Quedancor) and SB Corp., had made available P10 billion for SME lending for the first six months of 2003. "We are glad to report that we have already exceeded our P10-billion target," said Secretary Roxas. "To date, P11.8 billion has been released under Sulong." At least another P10 billion is being allocated for the second half of 2003.

## Simplified, standardized

SULONG has been tailored fit to meet the funding needs of SMEs. It has simplified and standardized lending procedures and guidelines, on loan purpose, fee structures, interest rates, application forms, financial ratios, and other lending parameters.

"What we would like to make of the SME Program," said Secretary Roxas," is to ensure that seamless access to government services is available to our SMEs as well as provide them financing for expansion and make sure that we have a strong domestic supply base for globally competitive industries." With the role being played by entrepreneurs in spurring economic growth, the government, through the SME Development Council, is committed to support these society's risk-takers.

*(More information on the National SME Agenda is available online at www.dti.gov.ph)*

**PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo hands over the P1-million check from SB Corp. to Sulong beneficiary Gemma Geograpo of GLG Marine Products on April 7, 2003 as Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, and SBC Chair Zorayda Alonzo look on.**

# President Arroyo to award top 16 SMEs

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will give recognition on July 25 to the top 16 small and medium entrepreneurs whose businesses have graduated in terms of growth in asset size, sales and productivity, credit absorptive capacity, or from domestic to export orientation. The ceremonies, which will be held in Malacanang, will be the highlight of SMED Week (July 24-27).

During the program, Secretary MAR Roxas shall present the accomplishments of the National SME Agenda to the President. The Agenda aims to address the challenges facing SMEs today: stiff global competition, limited access to financing, the high cost of doing business, and limited access to technology. The government is addressing these concerns through an integrated approach that covers training, marketing, product development/technology, advocacy for enabling environment, and financing. The SME graduates have all availed of government assistance through the DTI and the SMED Council.

The top 16 SME graduates were chosen from among 271 candidates nominated by DTI provincial directors nationwide. Fifty-three (53) finalists were selected from these, ranked according to their growth in sales, employment, and assets. Six (6) of the top 16 are from Isabela. The top three, in fact, all engaged in the furniture business, come from Isabela: Paulino M. Tan of Northlandia Enterprises, Nestor Villoria of Trader's Design Furniture Shop, and Edgar Base of Base Wood Products.

The other top SMEs are Arlyn's Handicrafts of Marylene Poggowon, Ifugao; Jonald's Home and Office Furnishing Enterprises of Sabina Atienza, Isabela; Sto. Nino Furniture and Sash Factory of Fernando D. Cumigad, Isabela; Alsong Potteries of Guillermo Peros Jr, Nueva Vizcaya; SL Technology Foundation, Inc. of Rosemarie Rey, Legazpi City; Mother Earth Products, Inc. of Renato Tayag, Pampanga; Tito Mike's Food Company, Inc. of Michael Cases, Zamboanga del Norte; Silver Handicrafts of Rose Nepomuceno, Aklan; ATM Ber-Aqua Water Services of Teodulo Bergado, Taguig; JBRL Enterprises of Rogelio Balisi, Isabela; Kimayong Primitive Crafts of Jean Kimayong, Ifugao; Tropics Agro-Industries, Inc. of Salvador Albia, Naga City, and Estacio's Antiques & Hidden Arts of Victoria Estacio, La Union.

Also to be given citations are seven outstanding bank partners of SB Corporation in recognition of their participation and performance in its guarantee and financing programs for SMEs: Planters Bank, Export and Industry Bank, Banco de Oro Universal Bank, Bank of Commerce, Philippine Rural Banking Corporation, BMS Rural Bank, and Philippine Bank of Communications.

# 'Cheaper, better pan de sal for the masses' - Roxas

THE PINOY Pandesal project of the Department of Trade and Industry goes full swing nationwide, with more bakeshops expressing their support to the project.

Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas welcomed the bakery chains' support stressing that this was a clear demonstration of the social commitment by the country's bakers to deliver quality baked pandesal with a standard weight of 25 grams sold at P1 per piece.

Already, the Department of Trade and Industry, Purefoods-San Miguel Corporation, and the Federation of Bakers Association of the Philippines have jointly conducted seven seminar training workshops to over 1, 000 participants composed of bakers, bakery owners, and would-be bakers.

Pinoy Pandesal complies with the Food Fortification Law as it uses Purefoods-San Miguel's Harina De Pandesal containing Vitamin A. This special flour mix is free from bromate - a carcinogenic chemical used to age flour - and instead uses a harmless substitute called 'Improver'.

The Pinoy Pandesal project was a result of a series of meetings between DTI and the manufacturers and suppliers to address issues affecting the bakery industry such as volatile flour prices.

Pinoy Pandesal's objectives include, among other things, providing bakers with training seminars in the use of Harina De Pandesal (which is now being marketed as Pambansang Harina) - a special flour mix developed by Purefoods-San Miguel Corporation exclusively for making pandesal.

More training workshops are scheduled this year. Already, trainings for small-scale bakers were held in Bohol, Cebu City, Koronadal, Davao, Laguna, Batangas, Lucena and Legazpi City.

To date, 526 bakeries all over the country are now selling Pinoy Pandesal and the number steadily grows with two of the largest bakery chains in the Philippines, French Baker and Julie's Bakeshop signing up to support the Pinoy Pandesal project.

Julie's Bakeshop, with 330 branches nationwide, already began selling Pinoy Pandesal, undertook an ad campaign to boost the consumption of Pinoy Pandesal and claimed for itself the title 'Bakery ng Bayang Pilipino.' Pan De Manila has also signified interest to join the project.

We also would like to develop the small and medium scale entrepreneurs nationwide and broaden the market base of Pinoy Pandesal so that more Filipino households can benefit from these cheaper but of good quality Pinoy fare," said Roxas.

For details, please inquire at
The Secretariat,
Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development,
Telephone No. 890-4968/897-7596;
Fax No. 896-7916
www.dti.gov.ph

PINOY PAN DE SAL
P1.00

**TRADE and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas leads the nationwide campaign to promote Pinoy 'pan de sal'.**

## SMED Week 2003 Activities
## July 24-27, 2003

*24 July 2003 (Thursday), SM Megamall*
10:00 - 11:00 Registration
11:00 - 12:00 Opening Ceremonies
Presentation of SME Graduates
12:00 - 01:00 Opening of SME Expo
01:00 - 04:00 Testimonial of Successful SMEs

*25 July 2003 (Friday), SM Megamall and Malacañang Palace*
10:00 - 11:00 Business Planning, SM Megamall
11:00 - 12:00 Know Your Market, SM Megamall
02:00 - 03:00 IT for SMEs, SM Megamall

Awarding Ceremonies, Malacañang Palace

*26 July 2003 (Saturday)*
10:00 - 12:00 Product Development and Technology Intervention for SMEs, SM Megamall
02:00 - 04:00 Access to Financing, SM Megamall

*27 July 2003, Sunday*
All Day SME Expo, SM Megamall

SMALL
BUSINESS
CORPORATION

# SB Corporation: 11 Years of Setting the Pace in SME development

**By Joel V. Nigos**

THREE years ago, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo made the decisive move that would make a big difference for the country"s small and medium enterprises. The move consisted of three crucial measures. First, she ordered the consolidation of the Guarantee Fund for SMEs and the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation to create what is now known as the Small Business Corporation. Second is the lifting of the suspension by the previous administration of the issuance of government credit guarantees to SME loans. Third is the appointment of new leadership in the merged corporation.

Standing from left to right: Alice L. Sy, VP Administrative Services; Modesto M. Butalid, Jr., VP Treasury; Melvin E. Abanto, VP Corporate Planning; Peter V. Pizarro, VP Remedial and Aquired Assets Management; Hector M. Olmedillo, VP Guarantees; Alfredo S. Dimaculanagn, VP Controllership and Luna C. David, VP Loans. Sitting from left to right: Benel P. Lagua, President & Chief Operating Officer and **Zorayda Amelia C. Alonzo**, Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer

The Small Business Corporation performance in the past two years provides an insight as to how it has managed to become a leading player in SME financing. It is a decisive success of the policy measures that led to its creation from the merged SBGFC and GFSME. But more than that it has provided an exciting glimpse of the huge promise and possibilities in SME financing and thus the development of the sector.

"In 2002, one full year after the merger, there was a 100-percent increase in the volume of the financial assistance we granted. This year, it's even more dramatic because from January to May 2003, we were already able to reach the volume of our business last year," Chair Alonzo says.

Alonzo is even more optimistic that their operations this year would also result to a 100-percent increase in the volume of their business. She attributes the feat to the more dynamic leadership in the organization.

"Efforts have been unified after the merger of the two organizations," says Alonzo adding that one main factor which also contributed to the growth is the full support given by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the Department of Trade and Industry Secretary MAR Roxas to the SME sector.

"There is focus now on SME development, and it is in fact included in the government's priority programs. Through the National SME Agenda, there is now convergence of services for SMEs. One part of these services is financing, which SB Corp. provides. SB Corp, is an integral part of the National SME Agenda," she says.

Looking closely at the numbers, guarantee approvals for the period January-June 2003 have already reached P141 million representing 33 SME accounts in 10 banks. This has exceeded the P118.86 million guarantee approvals for the whole year last year.

Under the wholesale lending program, SB Corporation has expanded its reach through the accreditation of more rural and major banks. There are now 10 very active big banks which avail of SB Corp.'s guarantee facilities. Major banks which have the big chunk of the credit lines are Planters Development Bank, Philippine Bank of Communications, Metrobank, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Equitable PCI Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines and Chinabank.

Volume of transactions for wholesale lending for the period January-June 2003 has reached P426.465 million. With continued pent-up demand for the credit facility, SB Corp. targets to better the P810 million in total wholesale lending granted last year.

In the direct or retail lending window, it has now granted a total of P323.80 million which represents 328 accounts as compared to only P262 million last year. This means that for the first half of this year has already exceeded the total volume of business for the whole year last year.

### SBC's contribution to SME credit technology

SBC's overall SME credit mobilization strategy is to match and focus appropriate financing products to SMEs based on their credit maturity, or bankability.

- Bankable SMEs are those that have full credit maturity, having established substantial business track record and asset size, management systems in place, credit track record with formal credit sources, and ability to put up loan collateral requirements of banks.
- Near-Bankable SMEs are those approaching credit maturity, with substantial business track record and management systems in place, but with limited or no credit track record with formal credit sources and lack of capacity to put up loan collateral requirements.
- Non-Bankable but potentially viable SMEs are ones that are approaching maturity as a going business concern. They have a limited but profitable track record, significant growth in asset/sales but without a management system in place, credit track record and ability to put up bank loan collaterals. A special category under this are SMEs that have incurred a negative credit track record with formal sources because of unexpected changes in the business environment or economic circumstances.

### SBC's response

Accordingly, SBC has designed a system of financial intermediation products that take into account the weaknesses and strengths of SMEs in these various categories:

- Wholesale funds are given to bankable SMEs, with banks as conduits. The intention is to enhance competitiveness of SMEs with lower cost financing. The advantage to the bank is the funds' positive impact on liquidity. It also gives banks the option to unload "higher cost" funds, adopt fixed interest rates (for longer term loans) without adverse impact on profitability. SMEs, on the other hand, get longer payment terms with lower and fixed interest rates and improved access to bank financing.
- Credit guarantees are granted to near-bankable SMEs. The SBC guarantee acts as collateral substitute or collateral supplement to expand the banks' comfort zone in SME lending. The strategic objective is to accelerate the bank's learning curve in developing financing systems and products appropriate for SMEs. For the SME, it is a "soft-entry" mechanism to formal sources of credit.
- Direct loans constitute SBC's response to SMEs that are not yet bankable or have bad credit record but are viable. SBC's strategy behind this products is to operate non-banking solutions for SME credit delivery, in particular addressing enterprises in the so-called "grey economy," a proactive and "out-of-the-box" solution to the singular problem of information asymmetry in SME lending.

### SME-friendlier SBC

More determined to be the credit champion for SMEs, Alonzo says that SB Corp. has made their policies and procedures friendlier to SMEs.

"This would enable SMEs easier and faster access to lending facilities," she says.

Alonzo also notes the effects of the actions taken by SB Corp. as far as government targets are concerned.

"SMEs are a powerful tool for poverty alleviation which continues to be one of the primary concerns of the government. Remember that when you rev up the SMEs, you are also revving up the economy. SMEs are small producers. When they hire people, they are able to reduce unemployment. Together they create livelihood and with their sheer number they could create a ripple effect in the economy," explains Alonzo.

She adds that their strategy is really helping these SMEs expand or to "graduate" them from being a micro to a small enterprise and from being a small enterprise to a medium enterprise, until they grow as a big enterprise and then they are now outside SB Corp's radar. SB Corp. supports micro, small and medium enterprises with asset size of up to P100 million only, at which point they become large enterprises. Micro finance loans, those that are less than P100,000, are done by SBC through its conduits such as rural banks, organizations like the National Market Vendors Confederation of Cooperatives (NAMVESCO), and other non-government organizations (NGOs).

Though there are still many challenges which SB Corp. is facing, Alonzo says the officers and staff of the institution always find inspiration in the stories of SMEs that found their way to success because of their support.

"We end up simply applauding them for their courage and self-sacrifice to give life to the enterprise." Alonzo emphasizes.

TRADE and Industry Secretary Mar A. Roxas stressing some points of the SME Unified Lending Opportunities for National Growth (Sulong) during an SME Forum at Dasmariñas, Cavite City

# Mother Earth: Exploring new grounds in meat processing

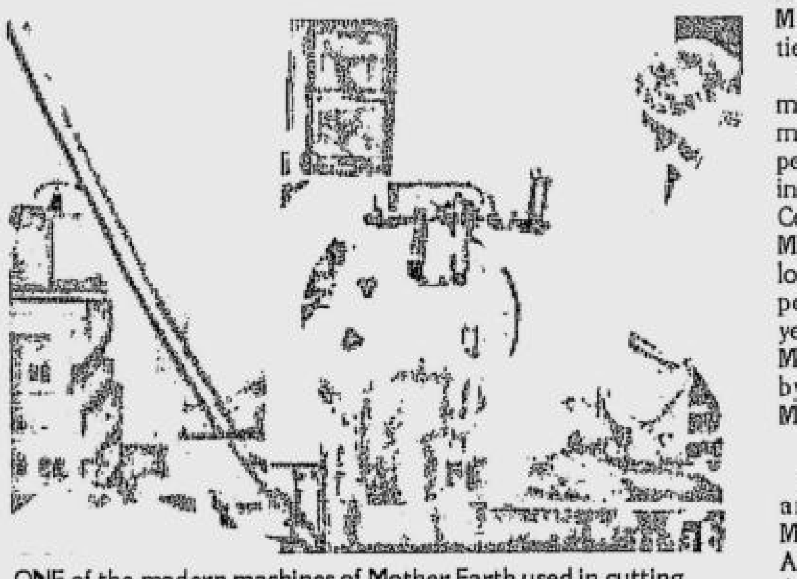
**By Catherine B. Trumata**

BARANGAY Ducuit, Mabalacat, Pampanga . . . a place buried in tons of lahar in 1991.

Now, in the same place stands a modern meat processing complex called Mother Earth.

### Conception

Mother Earth is managed by agri-businessman Renato Tayag Jr. It started operating in 1984 with a very ambitious project—to produce part of the milk and dairy needs of the residents of the former Clark Air Base. It imported dairy cows, reared and milked them in an area near the American air force base.



ONE of the modern machines of Mother Earth used in cutting various pork and beef products

This venture, however, was not a success. Discouraged but unbowed, Tayag diverted his efforts into producing cassava and ipil-ipil leaf ingredients for feeds. After a few years in 1987, his ipil-ipil trees were infested with jumping lice. With another setback, Tayag decided to look for a business alternative.

In 1989, the potential of the "cows and pigs" industry in Pampanga was accelerating. Tayag decided to ride with the trend, thus, Mother Earth ventured into cattle and hog raising and fattening. In the same year, Mother Earth acquired a license to operate an abattoir.

In 1990, it expanded into meat processing relying on the supply of local pork. The enterprise, eventually, became an "integrated" type of business, from breeding, fattening, slaughtering, cutting, processing and packaging.

### Meat processing

Mother Earth spent P3 million in capital to put up the meat processing plant. It has imported modern machines, as modern as those being used by giant food processors. The abattoir is a clean, airy place, with modern technology for dressing cattle and hogs.

After the dressing stage, different classifications and grades of pork and beef are segregated, packed, sealed and frozen. Meat processing follows. Products are processed to meet the standards for export quality set by the National Meat Inspection Commission and the Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD).

Initially, Mother earth processed local sausages or "longganisa," ham and bacon. Their market included groceries and mini-marts.

However, just as the products started to gain a few regular clients, Mt. Pinatubo erupted. A part of Mabalacat was buried by lahar, and electricity was cut off. This greatly affected Mother Earth whose operations depended heavily on electricity. Mother Earth has no choice but to close down.

### Second birth

After two years, electricity in Pampanga was restored, and Tayag wasted no time. With a leaner manpower complement, Mother Earth braved the difficulties of starting over again.

Mother Earth introduced new meat products and marketed these more aggressively. For one, Tayag personally marketed their products in various business establishments in Central Luzon and, eventually, Metro Manila. They also had to lower their prices, to compete with popular local brands. After a few years, these strategies bore fruits as Mother Earth became a household byword in Pampanga and Metro Manila.

### Cattle and hogs

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4. Bank of Commerce
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SMALL BUSINESS CORPORATION

# SB Corporation: 11 Years of Setting the Pace in SME development

By Joel V. Nigos

Standing from left to right: Alice L. Sy, VP Administrative Services; Modesto M. Butalid, Jr., VP Treasury; Melvin E. Abanto, VP Corporate Planning; Peter V. Pizarro, VP Remedial and Aquired Assets Management; Hector M. Olmedillo, VP Guarantees; Alfredo S. Dimaculanagn, VP Controllership and Luna C. David, VP Loans. Sitting from left to right: Benel P. Lagua, President & Chief Operating Officer and Zorayda Amelia C. Alonzo, Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer

THREE years ago, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo made the decisive move that would make a big difference for the country"s small and medium enterprises. The move consisted of three crucial measures. First, she ordered the consolidation of the Guarantee Fund for SMEs and the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation to create what is now known as the Small Business Corporation. Second is the lifting of the suspension by the previous administration of the issuance of government credit guarantees to SME loans. Third is the appointment of new leadership in the merged corporation.

The Small Business Corporation performance in the past two years provides an insight as to how it has managed to become a leading player in SME financing. It is a decisive success of the policy measures that led to its creation from the merged SBGFC and GFSME. But more than that it has provided an exciting glimpse of the huge promise and possibilities in SME financing and thus the development of the sector.

"In 2002, one full year after the merger, there was a 100-percent increase in the volume of the financial assistance we granted. This year, it's even more dramatic because from January to May 2003, we were already able to reach the volume of our business last year," Chair Alonzo says.

Alonzo is even more optimistic that their operations this year would also result to a 100-percent increase in the volume of their business. She attributes the feat to the more dynamic leadership in the organization.

"Efforts have been unified after the merger of the two organizations," says Alonzo adding that one main factor which also contributed to the growth is the full support given by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the Department of Trade and Industry Secretary MAR Roxas to the SME sector.

"There is focus now on SME development, and it is in fact included in the government's priority programs. Through the National SME Agenda, there is now convergence of services for SMEs. One part of these services is financing, which SB Corp. provides. SB Corp, is an integral part of the National SME Agenda," she says.

Looking closely at the numbers, guarantee approvals for the period January-June 2003 have already reached P141 million representing 33 SME accounts in 10 banks. This has exceeded the P118.86 million guarantee approvals for the whole year last year.

Under the wholesale lending program, SB Corporation has expanded its reach through the accreditation of more rural and major banks. There are now 10 very active big banks which avail of SB Corp.'s guarantee facilities. Major banks which have the big chunk of the credit lines are Planters Development Bank, Philippine Bank of Communications, Metrobank, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Equitable PCI Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines and Chinabank.

Volume of transactions for wholesale lending for the period January-June 2003 has reached P426.465 million. With continued pent-up demand for the credit facility, SB Corp. targets to better the P810 million in total wholesale lending granted last year.

In the director retail lending window, it has now granted a total of P323.80 million which represents 328 accounts as compared to only P262 million last year. This means that for the first half of this year has already exceeded the total volume of business for the whole year last year.

### SBC's contribution to SME credit technology

SBC's overall SME credit mobilization strategy is to match and focus appropriate financing products to SMEs based on their credit maturity, or bankability.

- **Bankable SMEs** are those that have full credit maturity, having established substantial business track record and asset size, management systems in place, credit track record with formal credit sources, and ability to put up loan collateral requirements of banks.
- **Near-Bankable SMEs** are those approaching credit maturity, with substantial business track record and management systems in place, but with limited or no credit track record with formal credit sources and lack of capacity to put up loan collateral requirements.
- **Non-Bankable but potentially viable SMEs** are ones that are approaching maturity as a going business concern. They have a limited but profitable track record, significant growth in asset/sales but without a management system in place, credit track record and ability to put up bank loan collaterals. A special category under this are SMEs that have incurred a negative credit track record with formal sources because of unexpected changes in the business environment or economic circumstances.

### SBC's response

Accordingly, SBC has designed a system of financial intermediation products that take into account the weaknesses and strengths of SMEs in these various categories:

- **Wholesale funds** are given to bankable SMEs, with banks as conduits. The intention is to enhance competitiveness of SMEs with lower cost financing. The advantage to the bank is the funds' positive impact on liquidity. It also gives banks the option to unload "higher cost" funds, adopt fixed interest rates (for longer term loans) without adverse impact on profitability. SMEs, on the other hand, get longer payment terms with lower and fixed interest rates and improved access to bank financing.
- **Credit guarantees** are granted to near-bankable SMEs. The SBC guarantee acts as collateral substitute or collateral supplement to expand the banks' comfort zone in SME lending. The strategic objective is to accelerate the bank's learning curve in developing financing systems and products appropriate for SMEs. For the SME, it is a "soft-entry" mechanism to formal sources of credit.
- **Direct loans** constitute SBC's response to SMEs that are not yet bankable or have bad credit record but are viable. SBC's strategy behind this products is to operate non-banking solutions for SME credit delivery, in particular addressing enterprises in the so-called "grey economy," a proactive and "out-of-the-box" solution to the singular problem of information asymmetry in SME lending.

### SME-friendlier SBC

More determined to be the credit champion for SMEs, Alonzo says that SB Corp. has made their policies and procedures friendlier to SMEs.

"This would enable SMEs easier and faster access to lending facilities," she says.

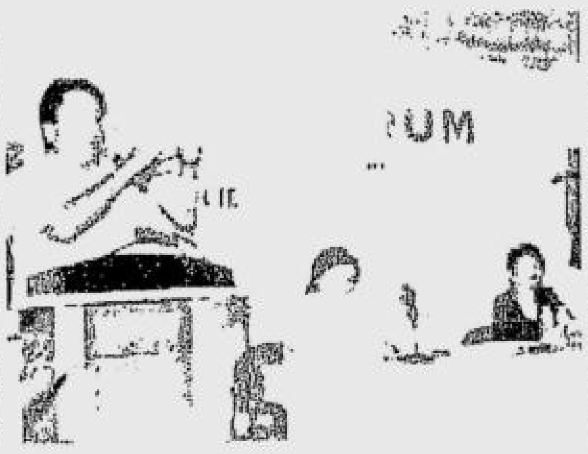
Alonzo also notes the effects of the actions taken by SB Corp. as far as government targets are concerned.

"SMEs are a powerful tool for poverty alleviation which continues to be one of the primary concerns of the government. Remember that when you rev up the SMEs, you are also revving up the economy. SMEs are small producers. When they hire people, they are able to reduce unemployment. Together they create livelihood and with their sheer number they could create a ripple effect in the economy," explains Alonzo.

She adds that their strategy is really helping these SMEs expand or to "graduate" them from being a micro to a small enterprise and from being a small enterprise to a medium enterprise, until they grow as a big enterprise and then they are now outside SB Corp's radar. SB Corp. supports micro, small and medium enterprises with asset size of up to P100 million only, at which point they become large enterprises. Micro finance loans, those that are less than P100,000, are done by SBC through its conduits such as rural banks, organizations like the National Market Vendors Confederation of Cooperatives (NAMVESCO), and other non-government organizations (NGOs).

Though there are still many challenges which SB Corp. is facing, Alonzo says the officers and staff of the institution always find inspiration in the stories of SMEs that found their way to success because of their support.

"We end up simply applauding them for their courage and self-sacrifice to give life to the enterprise," Alonzo emphasizes.


TRADE and Industry Secretary Mar A. Roxas stressing some points of the SME Unified Lending Opportunities for National Growth (Sulong) during an SME Forum at Dasmariñas, Cavite City

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# Mother Earth: Exploring new grounds in meat processing

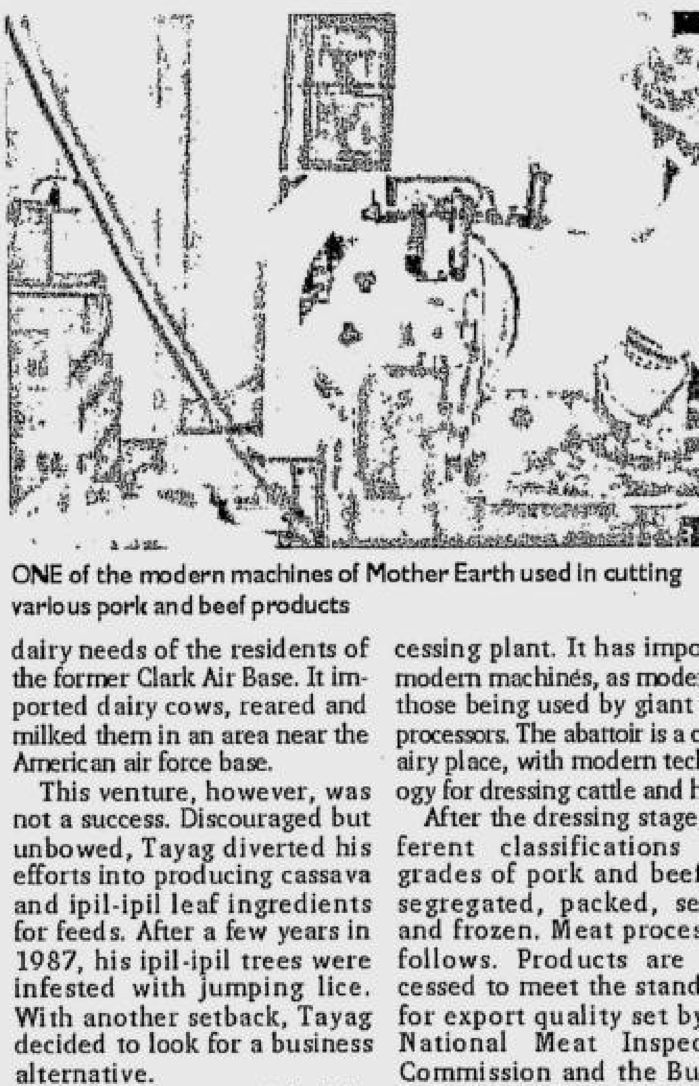
By Catherine B. Trumata

BARANGAY Ducuit, Mabalacat, Pampanga . . . a place buried in tons of lahar in 1991.

Now, in the same place stands a modern meat processing complex called Mother Earth.

### Conception

Mother Earth is managed by agri-businessman Renato Tayag Jr. It started operating in 1984 with a very ambitious project—to produce part of the milk and dairy needs of the residents of the former Clark Air Base. It imported dairy cows, reared and milked them in an area near the American air force base.


ONE of the modern machines of Mother Earth used in cutting various pork and beef products

This venture, however, was not a success. Discouraged but unbowed, Tayag diverted his efforts into producing cassava and ipil-ipil leaf ingredients for feeds. After a few years in 1987, his ipil-ipil trees were infested with jumping lice. With another setback, Tayag decided to look for a business alternative.

In 1989, the potential of the "cows and pigs" industry in Pampanga was accelerating. Tayag decided to ride with the trend, thus, Mother Earth ventured into cattle and hog raising and fattening. In the same year, Mother Earth acquired a license to operate an abattoir.

In 1990, it expanded into meat processing relying on the supply of local pork. The enterprise, eventually, became an "integrated" type of business, from breeding, fattening, slaughtering, cutting, processing and packaging.

### Meat processing

Mother Earth spent P3 million in capital to put up the meat processing plant. It has imported modern machines, as modern as those being used by giant food processors. The abattoir is a clean, airy place, with modern technology for dressing cattle and hogs.

After the dressing stage, different classifications and grades of pork and beef are segregated, packed, sealed and frozen. Meat processing follows. Products are processed to meet the standards for export quality set by the National Meat Inspection Commission and the Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD).

Initially, Mother earth processed local sausages or "longganisa," ham and bacon. Their market included groceries and mini-marts.

However, just as the products started to gain a few regular clients, Mt. Pinatubo erupted. A part of Mabalacat was buried by lahar, and electricity was cut off. This greatly affected Mother Earth whose operations depended heavily on electricity. Mother Earth has no choice but to close down.

### Second birth

After two years, electricity in Pampanga was restored, and Tayag wasted no time. With a leaner manpower complement, Mother Earth braved the difficulties of starting over again.

Mother Earth introduced new meat products and marketed these more aggressively. For one, Tayag personally marketed their products in various business establishments in Central Luzon and, eventually, Metro Manila. They also had to lower their prices, to compete with popular local brands. After a few years, these strategies bore fruits as Mother Earth became a household byword in Pampanga and Metro Manila.

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PRESENTS

| G1<br>GLORIETTA 1 | G4<br>GLORIETTA 4 | GB1<br>GREENBELT 1 | GB3<br>GREENBELT 3 | ATC<br>ALABANG TOWN CENTER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOMB RAIDER 2 | TOMB RAIDER 2 | ArtFilm<br>MIRANDA<br>(Exclusive)<br>1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00 | GUARANTEED SEATS<br>THX TOMB RAIDER 2<br>1:45 4:10 6:35<br>9:00 11:25 | THX TOMB RAIDER 2 |
| TERMINATOR 3 | 2 TOMB RAIDER 2 | 2 TOMB RAIDER 2<br>11:20, 1:45, 4:10<br>6:35, 9:00 | GUARANTEED SEATS<br>THX TOMB RAIDER 2<br>1:10 3:35 6:00<br>8:25 10:50 | TOMB RAIDER 2 |
| 3 BANGKOK HAUNTED | GUARANTEED SEATS<br>THX TOMB RAIDER 2<br>12:20 2:50 5:20 7:50 10:20 | Onstage<br>LANI MISALUCHA... LOVING YOU<br>July 25 & 26 - 9pm | GUARANTEED SEATS<br>3 TERMINATOR 3<br>1:20 3:40<br>6:00 8:20 10:40 | TOMB RAIDER 2 |
| TOMB RAIDER 2 | 4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE | | GUARANTEED SEATS<br>4 DOWN W/ LOVE<br>1:50 4:00<br>6:10 8:20 10:30 | LIZZIE MCGUIRE |
| | DOWN WITH LOVE | | GUARANTEED SEATS<br>TOMB RAIDER 2<br>11:55 2:20 4:45<br>7:10 9:35 | TERMINATOR 3 |
| | 5 TOMB RAIDER 2 | | | |
| | 7 TERMINATOR 3 | | | |

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9 IMPOSTOR
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2 MASAMANG UGAT
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3 TOMB RADER-2
4 JACKASS THE MOVIE

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**
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3 TOMB RADER-2
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3 TERMINATOR-3
4

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1 DEATH WATCH
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3 TERMINATOR-3
4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS

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2 -
3 WILD BUTTERFLY
4 TOMB RAIDER-2

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2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 JACKASS THE MOVIE
4 TOMB RAIDER-2
5

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2 TOMB RAIDER-2
3

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3

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3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4 TERMINATOR-3

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2 RESERVE

**Emperor**
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2 -
3 RESERVE

**Fiesta World Mall**
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1 BIGAY HILIG
2 IMPOSTOR
3 DOWN WITH LOVE
4 TERMINATOR-3

**Jade Cinema**
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2 28 DAYS LATER
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 MASAMANG UGAT

**Cine Nepo Mall**
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3 THE HUNTED
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8 LIZZIE MCGUIRE

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1 TERMINATOR 3
2 IMPOSTOR
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 MASAMANG UGAT
5 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED
7 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
8 WILD BUTTERFLY
9 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
10 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW**
9350749
1 IMPOSTOR
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 3
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 TERMINATOR 3
9 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
10 WILD BUTTERFLY
11 DOWN WITH LOVE
12 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

**SM CITY MANILA**
5239240
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2 TERMINATOR 3
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
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11 DOWN WITH LOVE
12 MASAMANG UGAT

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4 TERMINATOR 3
5 DOWN WITH LOVE
6 IMPOSTOR
7 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
8 THE HUNTED
9 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
10 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11 BANGKOK HAUNTED
12 WILD BUTTERFLY

**SM CITY NORTH EDSA**
9295452
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2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED
4 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 TERMINATOR 3

**SM SOUTHMALL**
8066888
1 BANGKOK HAUNTED
2 IMPOSTOR
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 WILD BUTTERFLY
7 TERMINATOR 3
8 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
9 MASAMANG UGAT
10 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

**SM CITY CEBU**
2313876
1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
3 WILLARD
4 JACKASS
5 28 DAYS LATER
6 MASAMANG UGAT
7 TERMINATOR 3
8 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

**SM CITY ILOILO**
3209422
1 MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
2 RESERVED
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 28 DAYS LATER
5 TERMINATOR 3
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
7 RESERVED
8 THE HOURS

**SM CITY PAMPANGA**
7128015
1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 MASAMANG UGAT
5 JACKASS
6 TERMINATOR 3

**SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT**
8294975
1 MASAMNG UGAT
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 TERMINATOR 3

**SM CINEMA TUTUBAN**
2514302
1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 TERMINATOR 3
4 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

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3 TERMINATOR 3
4 MUNTING TINIG
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2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 TERMINATOR 3
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

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2 THE HUNTED
3 28 DAYS LATER
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# Future Way of Owning Homes...Doing it Today!

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## Misdirected, Total Inefficiency.

**In Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong home ownership of its citizenry is high at a rate of 75% and above. Shockingly, home ownership of our people in the Philippines is a low 30%. This is because our housing industry is driven by speculation built on a false demand on high end products, intentionally created by unethical middlemen developers who are out to make quick money. This, together with the current inefficient method of developing, has made housing unaffordable and unsuitable for the real homeneeder.**

The real objective of the housing industry should be to help provide homes for the houseless citizenry, instead of using its products as a commodity to speculate upon and make excessive profits.

**Our team of professionals and technical people who will group you together to build your home at direct cost.**

### Wrong Products, Total Wastage

Driving around Metro Manila, unfinished and abandoned housing structures meet your sight left and right. At night, those completed buildings standing tall and proud emanate few lighted windows indicating vacancies on these supposedly sold out buildings.

Large sums of equity and investments, estimated at P250 billion, are wasted on these non-performing and wrongly produced products, while the houseless citizenry remain houseless. The victims are numerous, the gullible speculator who lost their investments, the homebuyer who lost their lifetime savings without getting their units, banks which got piled up with non-performing assets, the middlemen developers themselves who busted their own inflated bubble, and are now at the verge of bankruptcy, and our nation deep in economic crisis.

### A Solution to Save Themselves

The recent collapse of the Real Estate Industry has caused many financial institutions to impose stricter rules on Real Estate related loans. Faced with a lack of

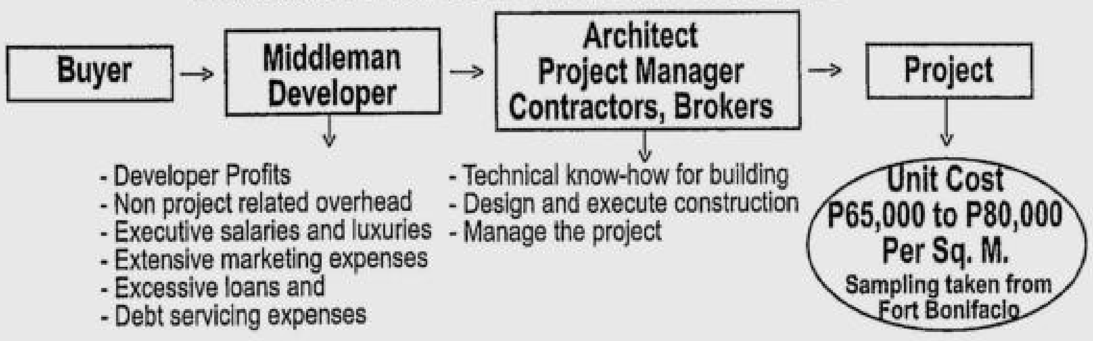
*(Continued next page.)*

## The New Method: Buy Services...Own at Direct Cost.

**With the availability of so many good location properties, and a buyers' market, construction industry technical people such as architects, engineers, contractors and brokers can help prospective homebuyers to organize a group to purchase a property and build a condominium at direct cost. This is exactly what the middleman developer does to sell products to homebuyers, except in order for them to operate, it is necessary for them to add on their excessive marketing expenditure, high profile corporate image, provisions for debt servicing due to highly leveraged borrowing, and their excessive profits...which homeneeders can certainly do without.**

*(Continued on page 11)*

### Middlemen Led CONVENTIONAL METHOD



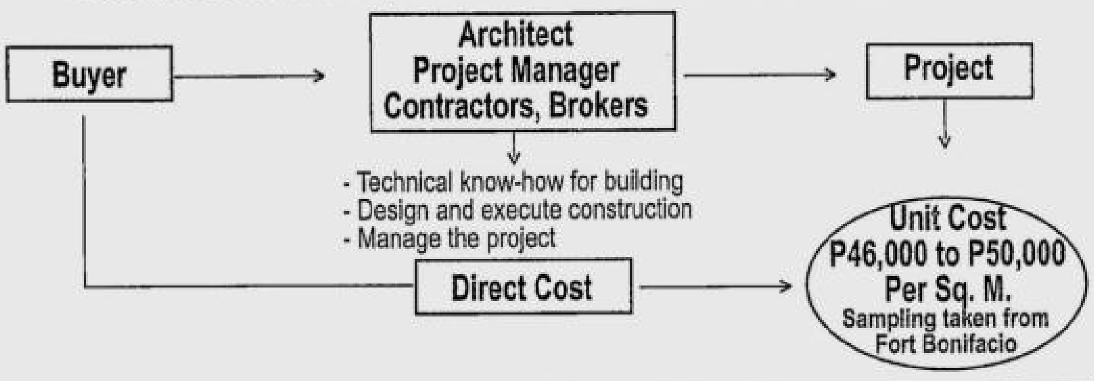
Buyer → Middleman Developer → Architect Project Manager Contractors, Brokers → Project

- Developer Profits
- Non project related overhead
- Executive salaries and luxuries
- Extensive marketing expenses
- Excessive loans and
- Debt servicing expenses

- Technical know-how for building
- Design and execute construction
- Manage the project

Unit Cost
P65,000 to P80,000
Per Sq. M.
Sampling taken from Fort Bonifacio

### Construction Industry Led BUILD TO OWN DIRECT METHOD



Buyer → Architect Project Manager Contractors, Brokers → Project

- Technical know-how for building
- Design and execute construction
- Manage the project

Buyer → Direct Cost → Unit Cost
P46,000 to P50,000
Per Sq. M.
Sampling taken from Fort Bonifacio

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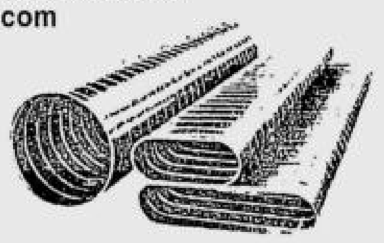

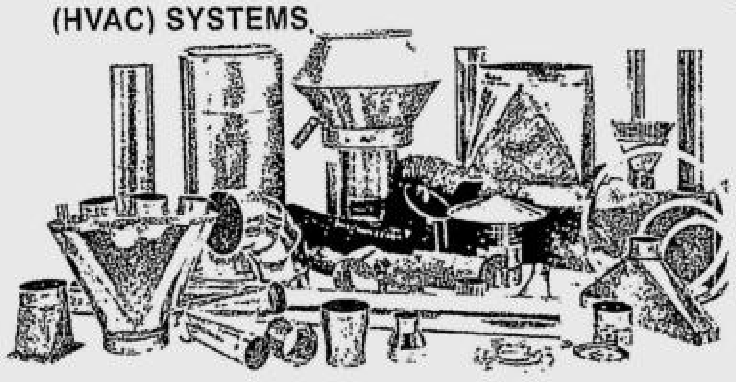

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## "When homebuyers can't afford and developers fail to deliver inspite of high prices, something must be wrong."

Gilbert C. Yu, Development Consultant

ARCHITECTS
DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS

*(Misdirected...cont.)*

sources for funding, the existence of the middlemen developers was threatened forcing them to devise a solution to save themselves.

**1) Extending the pre-sell period and collecting payments without activities and expenditure on the project.**

The 2 year home building process is extended to 5 years, where the first 3 years are used solely to collect "pre-sell" downpayment presumably for construction funds, while not having any actual construction activity.

This extended project time-frame makes the project more susceptible to inflation, currency devaluation and all the other economic risks inherent in the industry.

This is an unfair act by the middlemen developer to continue operations at the expense of the unsuspecting homebuyer. Moreover, this process allows the middlemen developers to divert the homebuyer's money to other projects, or worse, to service their previous overdue debts.

In the event that a developer fails to deliver, the homebuyers are left helpless with the middlemen virtually unaccountable because existing laws limit their liability up to corporation assets only.

**2) Making Homes Smaller to Match Affordability -**

Instead of improving efficiency to match affordability, middleman developers simply reduce the size of each unit while maintaining its high cost per square meter. This may make the homes seem more affordable, but their size is unsuitable for family living in the Philippines where the average family size is 4.5 people.

**3) Misleading Advertising -**

No Downpayment. Low Monthly installments. No Interest. These are the usual come-ons that bait in the homebuyers. What the homebuyer does not know is that there are large sums of balloon payments due at regular intervals. Moreover, this method still leaves a high balance after the homes are turned over, trapping the homebuyer with large debts and high amortization payments.

*(Continued on page12)*

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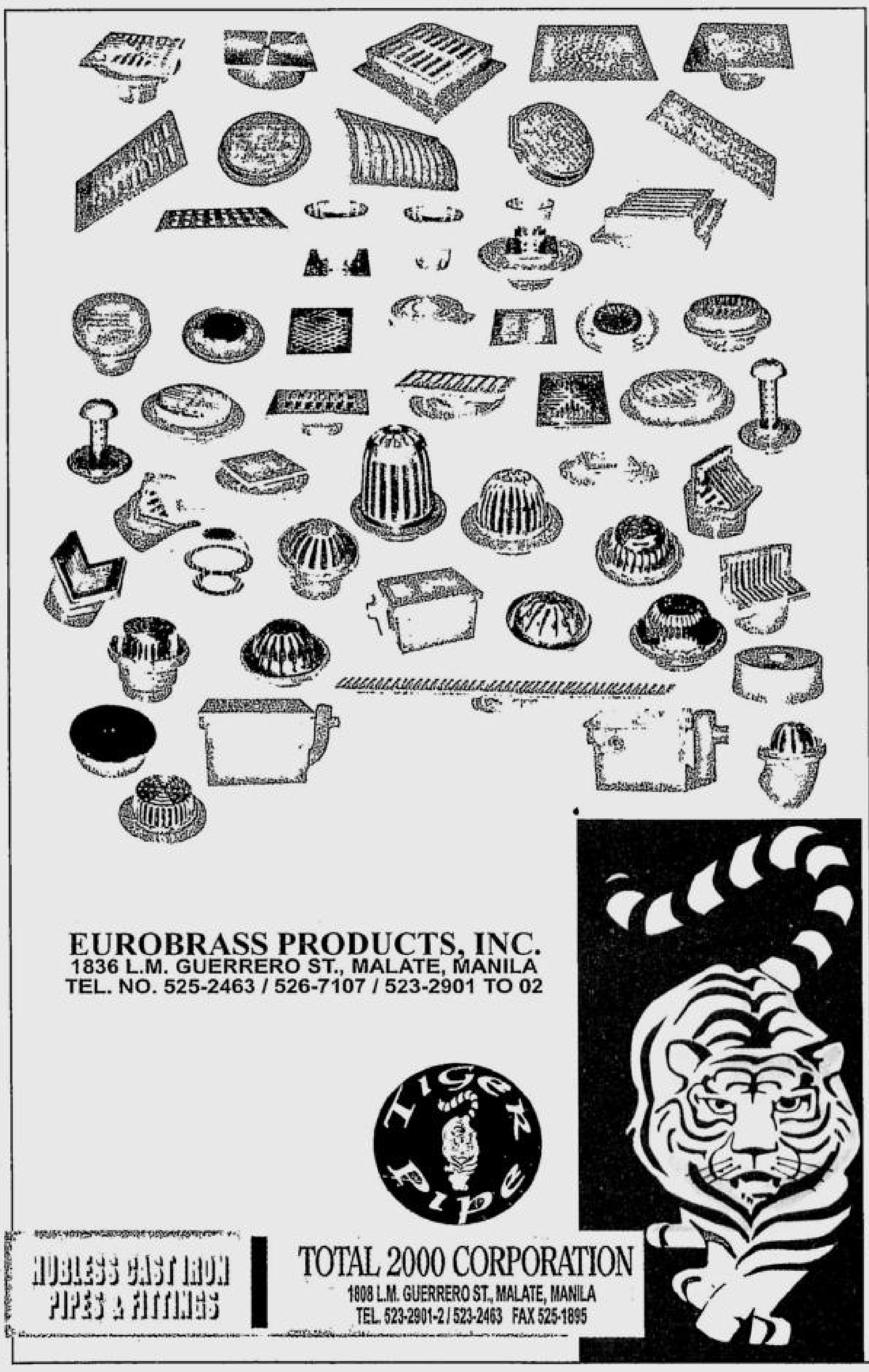

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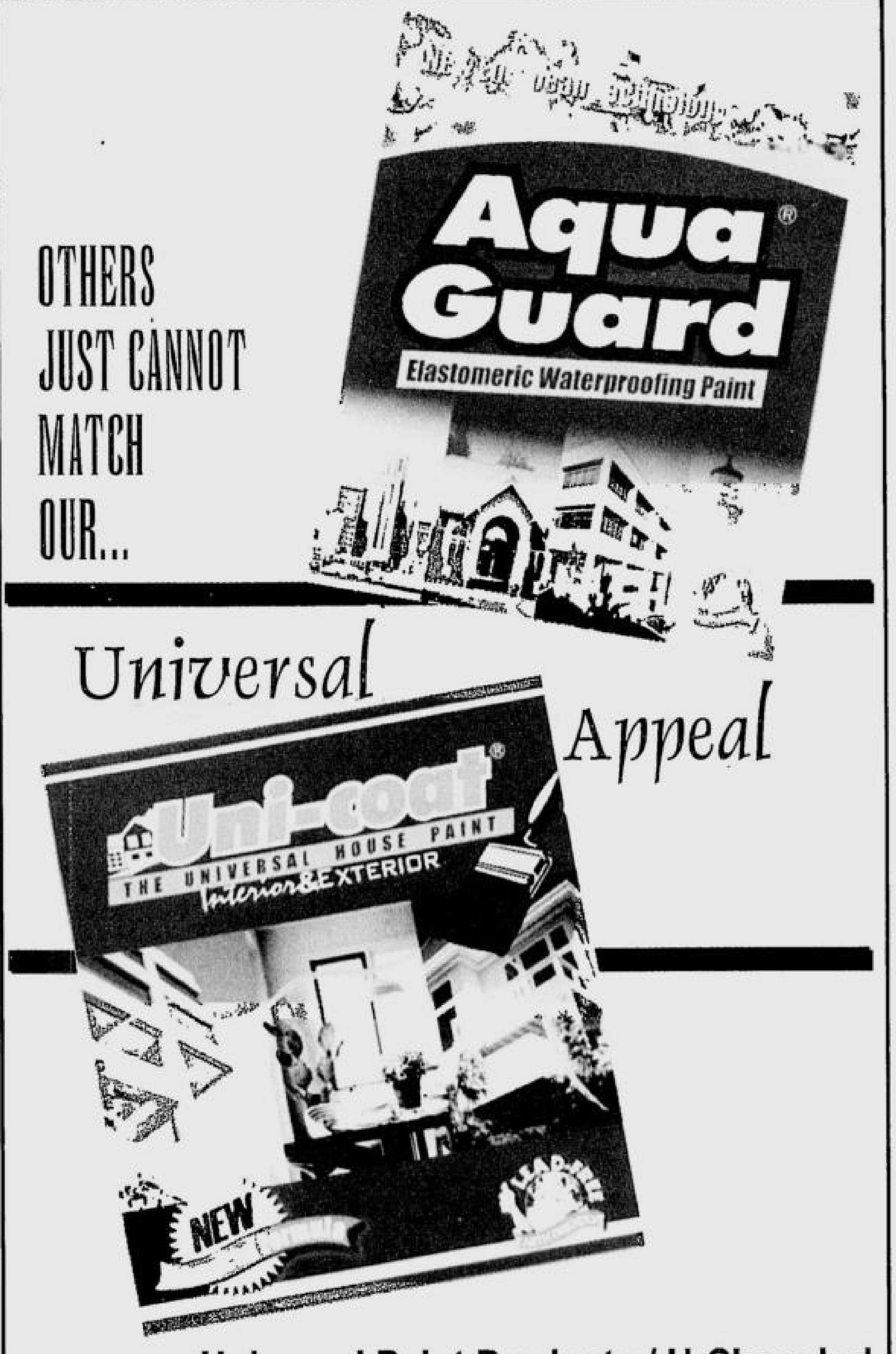

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**"The true goal of the Real Estate Industry is to help house people, not to treat homes as commodities to make excessive profits on."**

Gilbert Yu, Architect

ARCHITECTS
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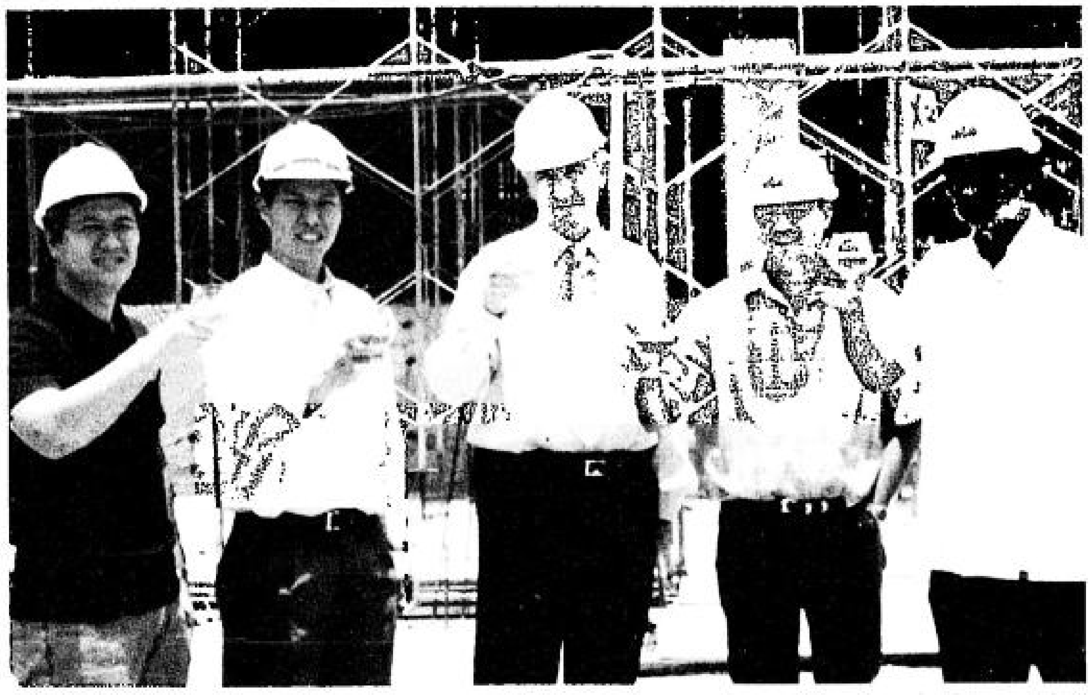
## Diverted Cash Flow Caused Uncompleted Projects and Industry Downfall

**During the construction boom, banks accepted properties for mortgage, releasing money to developers while knowing that the subject property is being sold to homebuyers at the same time. Loans released from the bank, and the collection of pre-selling down payment created an avalanche of cash in the early stages of the project, at the disposal of the middlemen. Supposed to be used solely for the construction and to pay back the debt obligations, most middlemen considered it as "surplus" or realized profits, and diverted the cash to more land banking at higher prices. This resulted in a false market demand, inflating the property industry bubble. When it burst, buyers failed to receive their homes, and banks were left with non-performing assets.**



Above photo shows representatives of the technical group behind the country's first condominium project under the Direct Cost Build to Own system, the Penhurst Parkplace at the Global City, during ceremonies marking the completion of substructure works. From left, Architects Kenneth Uy and Daniel Terence Yu, Special Projects Division Head and Executive Assistant to the President respectively of G&W, Overall Project Managers; Mr. Paul Chaston, Partner & Regional Dev't. Manager-North East Asia rfepresenting EC Harris Philippines, Construction Managers; Engineers Ramon Gabaldon and Manny Sy, Vice President and President respectively of New Golden City Builders, General Contractor.

### *The New Method...cont.)*

G&W development consultants has made this new method possible through two simple contracts: "Multiple Client Architectural Service Contract", and "Construction Trust Fund Contract".

The "Multiple Client Architectural Service Contract" enables the Architect to service multiple clients (homebuyer group) to build condominium projects, each owning their unit at direct cost.

The "Construction Trust Fund Contact" signed by the unit owner with the bank protects the homebuyers payments by placing it in a trustee account to make sure that the funds are disbursed only for the use of the construction of the project.

### More than just money.
### Peace of Mind.

By buying the services of professionals and technical people who will build a home at direct cost, buyers can expect the following benefits:

**1) Moral Commitment to Quality -** The technical people are licensed professionals who have a name to protect, clients can expect quality construction and at the same time, awareness, not only for the short term but also the long term maintenance cost, resulting in a cost effective, beautiful and strong building.

**2) Ownership Protection**

The trustee bank will safeguard the money from being diverted into other purposes unrelated to the construction of the condominium. Also, the trustee bank holds ownership in behalf of the homeowner from owning the land up to any construction materials delivered to the site, unlike buying from middleman, homeowner owns nothing until the developers satisfied all of its debts and liabilities from all its creditors.

**3) No Unnecessary Costs -**

Homebuyers do not absorb the middleman's financing charges, marketing costs, contingency costs and profits.

**4) Bigger Savings -**

Buyers enjoy the cost savings associated with building their homes at cost. And since they are not "Buying" but "Building" their own home, there is no sale involved, thus it will be more tax efficient.

**5) Fast Guaranteed Delivery -**

Projects built using the build direct method will be immediately built after the buyer requests it, ensuring fast delivery while eliminating the risk from inflation.

**6) Interest Earnings -**

All the interest gained by money deposited in the trustee bank before construction activities will be credited to the homeowners.

**It is not a paper theory.
It is now under construction in
Fort Bonifacio**

The direct build system was able to lower the cost of a condominium by as much as 30% to 40%, as in the pilot project in Fort Bonifacio, Penhurst Parkplace.

A 23 Storey fully residential building which started construction during the fourth quarter of 2002, Penhurst Parkplace is scheduled to be finished by the middle of 2004.

Compared to surrounding buildings which sell for Php 70,000.00 to Php 100,000.00 per square meter, Penhurst Parkplace units were owned at an average cost of Php49,000 per square meter.

*(Continued next page.)*

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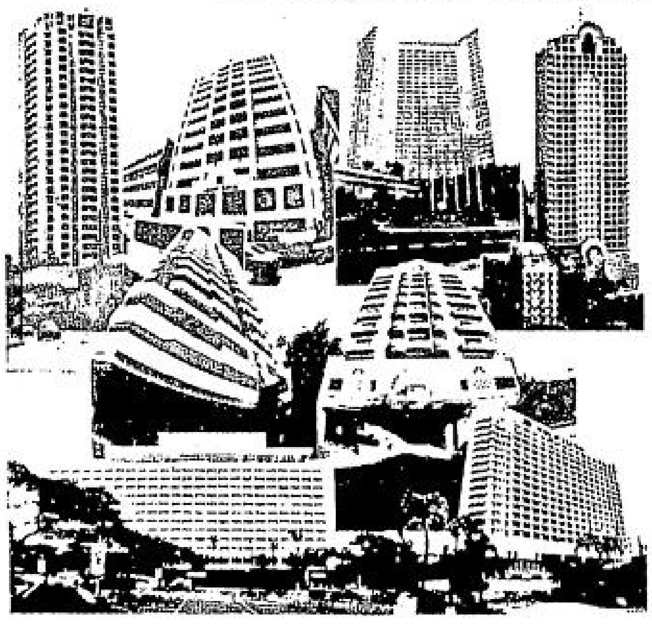

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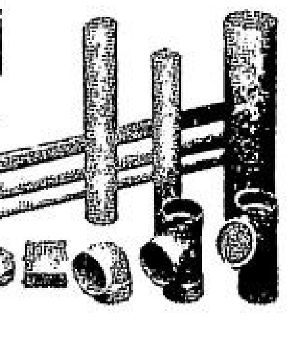

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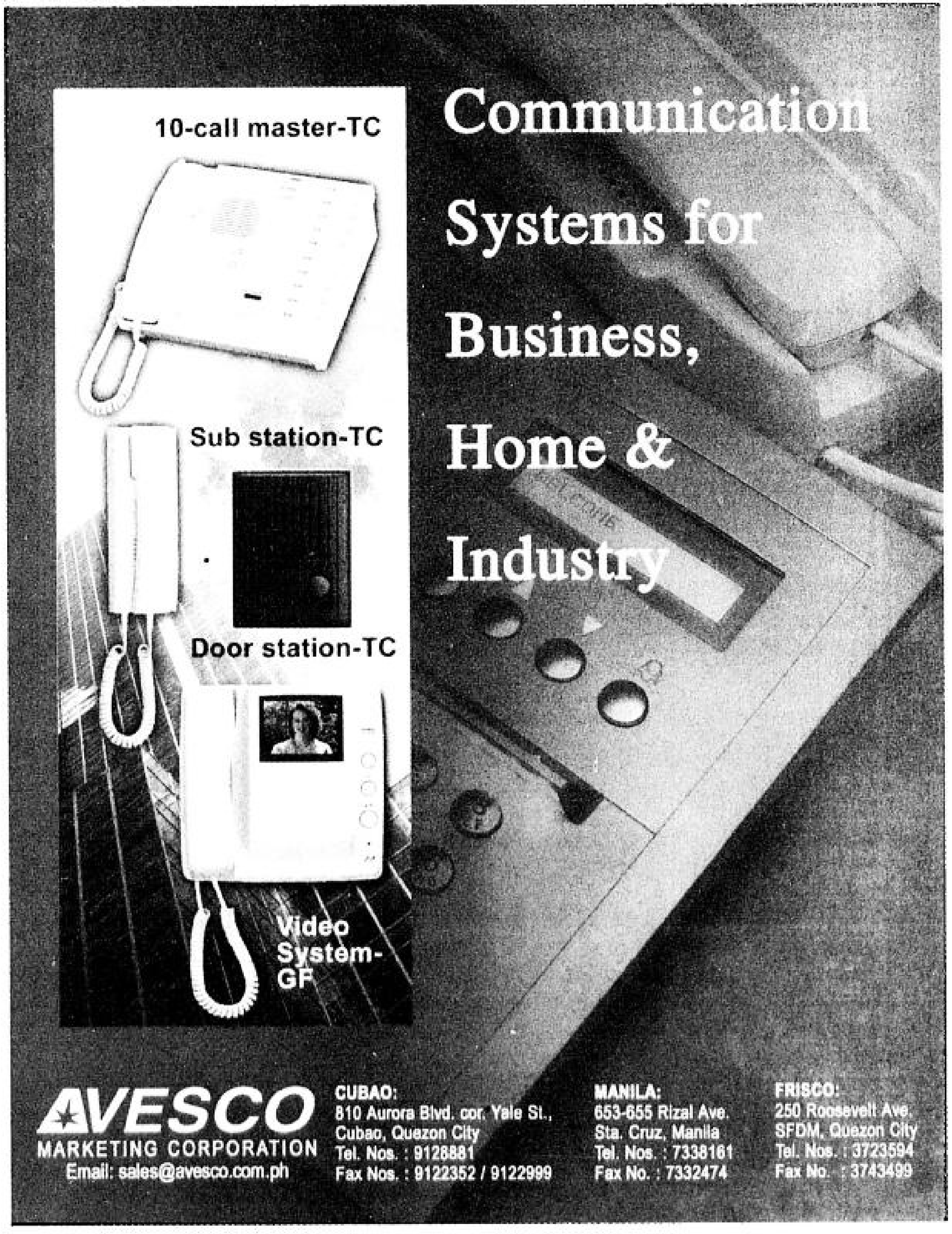

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## Instead of buying end products, homebuyers should directly buy the services of professionals/technical people and build at direct cost

**G.W**
ARCHITECTS
DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS

*(Continued from previous page)*

### Future Industry Practice … Doing it Today.

The construction industry professionals, contractors and suppliers, instead of serving the middleman, will now have the opportunity to directly serve housing consumers.

***Construction industry players, including technical professionals, contractors and sub contractors shall also be relieved from the agony of serving middlemen, who, for the purposes of squeezing more profits, give them shabby treatment by slashing their prices, delay payment schedule even up to non-payment and forcing them to swap with their highly overpriced units.***

The construction industry professionals can now continue with their role as provider of homes, satisfying the homeneeder, while receiving fair compensation for their efforts. Reciprocally, the homebuyer will be able to buy at direct cost from suppliers void of the middleman's cut.

## Buyers, Make Your Choice.

The recovery of the housing and construction industry will only happen if housing is made not only affordable, but also suitable for decent family living.

It should also provide unquestionable protection to the homebuyer for the delivery of homes that they have fully paid for. Without the homebuyers' confidence, the industry will never survive, much less recover.

The recent corporate crisis involving the presumably indestructible multinational companies such as Worldcom and Enron, has proven that "big size is not necessarily synonymous to being reliable and immune to failure".

Learning from this experience, buyers should be more discerning and insistent, knowing that behind the grandiose offer of the sellers, it is still a promise on paper. As such, buyers should be aware that they are paying hard-earned money for something to be delivered many years later, and a lot of things can happen in between.

**Homeowners should be the ones to be paid interest!**

*(Continued from page 10)*

The "No Interest" ploy is even more ridiculous since the homebuyer is pre-paying for a future delivery of a product, while there are no construction activities going on.

The payments colleted from the homebuyer are actually advances to the middleman, and should be entitled to interest payment to the homeowner instead.

**For more information on Build to Own at Direct Cost contact 6370234 to 36**

N B P
CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Blk. 10 Lot 8, Melendris, Life Homes,
Ortigas Ext., Taytay, Rizal

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Strength, reliability and trust: the fundamental elements that combine to build a solid foundation. This solid foundation empowers almost everything around us---technology, business, communication, education, industries and households. And for this, you need a partner that can cope with your needs and demands. You need confidence you can build on...Confidence that's yours with **COLUMBIA.** So, have you checked lately who you've hooked up with?

PERFORMANCE PROVED COLUMBIA WIRES AND CABLES

Makers of HYPEX-XLPE
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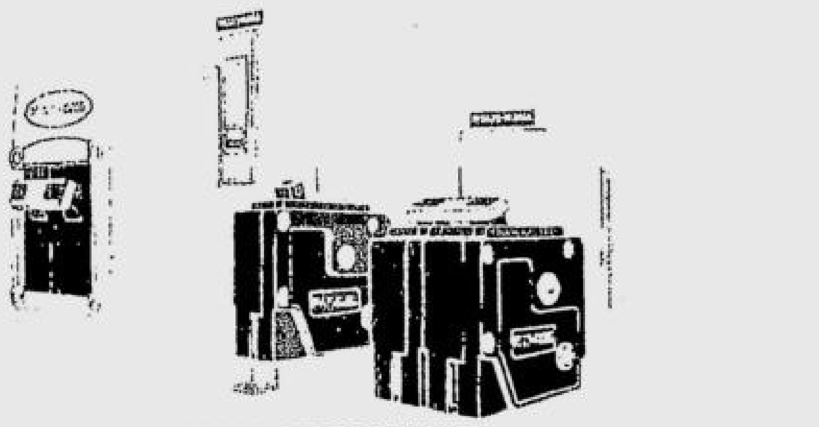

PRINCIPAL OFFICE & PLANT
Silangan Industrial Park, Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna
Tel. No. 844-0903 Fax No. 844-0903
email: fhep_tsg@mozcom.com

SALES & MARKETING OFFICE
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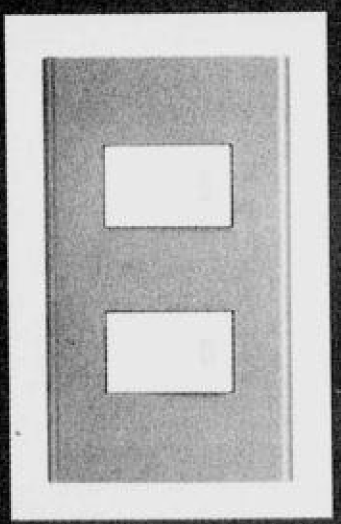
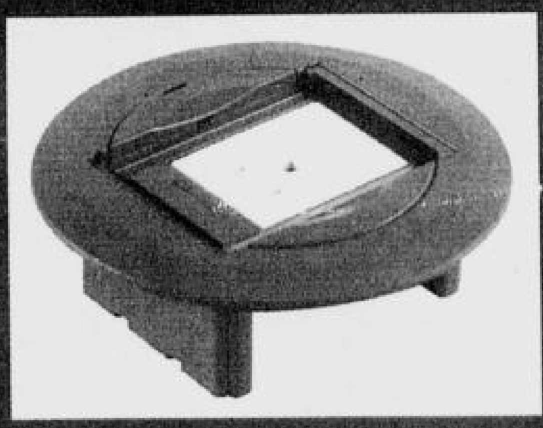
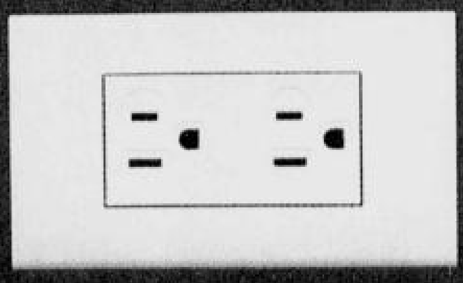


Switches



Floor Outlets



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EXP. MAIDS W/ NBI -9950635

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#### HOUSEHOLD JOBS

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P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

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#### PASIG

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•329m² Proj6 QC VLot T9298376

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#### MANILA

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1st Class COMM'L-OFFICE RES'L CONDO.
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READY FOR OCCUPANCY
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nr UST,Espana Tower
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#### MANDALUYONG

PIONEER EAST 1BR 52m²
2.5M 4121825•09177914366

#### PARANAQUE

3BR 3TB 2Car Garage 165sqm 1 Md Rm 5601254/09189177393

900T Condo Nr Airport
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Frontage 21M
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Ideal for Retail Arcade
Tenants Available
Developers Welcome
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#### QUEZON CITY

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### CONDO/TWNHSE

#### MANDALUYONG

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#### QUEZON CITY

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#### RIZAL

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## TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

### UTILITY VEHICLE/HVY EQUIP/ TRANSPORT

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5271590

### NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT PNOC CERT. ISSUED IN FAVOR OF VICTORIANO CRUZ WAS LOST. IF NO CONTEST RECEIVED NEW CERT. WILL BE ISSUED. (PDI-July 10, 17, & 24, 2003)

### PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. Persons must pray this 3 consecutive days without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this soon as your favor has been granted. Thank you Holy Spirit for granting my petition. - JYT

Thank You Holy Spirit
Fr: Earl Del Rosario & Family

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GEN CARGO/BULK VSL
Delivery Sept - Oct 2003
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- With experience
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# LETTER OF APOLOGY

I recognize EASTON ENTERPRISE COMPANY INC. as the Philippines Exclusive Distributor dealer, copyrighted and trademarks registered of the following motorcycle parts brand

**"Jec" coil * "RK" gold chain**
**"TAKASAGO" shock absorber & rims**

Effective today, I will stop & desist from selling above mentioned products.

I hereby apologize & express my thanks and gratitude to the staff and management of EASTON ENTERPRISES COMPANY INC. for the withdrawal of damage suits against me.

ARSENIO SANTIAGO

NO JOBS IN IRAQ YET

Call POEA at

722-1144
722-1155

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

July 23, 2003

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

**Name of Project** : **Procurement of Services for the Performance of Technical Testing and Acceptance Process for the Fully Outsourced eFPS (Lot 1)**
**Location of the Project** : **BIR National Office Building, Diliman, Quezon City**
**Approved Budget** : **P3,320,000.00**
**Contract Duration** : **September 1 to December 31, 2003**

All interested parties may get the bidding documents from the BAC Secretariat, c/o Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City starting **July 25, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Seven Hundred Pesos (P700.00).**

Submission of a written Letter of Intent shall be on August 8 to 14, 2003 and Registration and shortlisting of Cunsultants shall be on August 15 to 20, 2003.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **August 8, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City.**

Deadline for the submission and opening of technical and financial proposals shall be on **August 25, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **3rd Floor, Executive Conference Room, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City**, and followed by the opening of the bids.

The criteria to be used by the BIR in the following: (a) eligibility check of prospective bidders; (b) examination and evaluation of bids; and (c) post-qualification, shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief, Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 926-5547/926-5538 and telefax no. 928-2026, or e-mail us at nelly.ibo@bir.gov.ph until ***August 22, 2003.***

(Sgd.) **MILAGROS V. REGALADO**
Assistant Commissioner-Legal Service
Chairman, Bids and Awards Commitee

(PDI - July 24, 2003)

## WANTED IMMEDIATELY

1. **ACCOUNTANT**
   – CPA; male; 28 to 35 yrs old; must be computer literate; with at least 5 yrs experience; hardworking; trustworthy and accredited with BIR.
2. **ACCOUNTING STAFF**
   – BSA/BSBA graduate; female; single; 22 to 30 yrs old; must be computer literate; with at least 2 yrs experience in general accounting; hardworking and trustworthy.

*Apply in person and bring transcript of records and other credentials at*

**TRANSMAN BROKERAGE & TRANSPORT CORP.**
Rm. 211, Auro-Vir Plaza,
1695 Evangelista St. cor. Gen. Lacuna St.,
Bangkal, Makati City

**Look for Mr. Goody V. Eray**

---

Republic of the Philippines
**Department of Education**
National Capital Region
**RIZAL EXPERIMENTAL STATION AND**
**PILOT SCHOOL OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES**
Maybunga, Pasig City

## List of Vacant Positions

(1) **Master Teacher I**; SG-16; Item No. MTCHR-1-32536; Bachelor's Degree in Education or its equivalent; or Bachelor's Degree in Arts and Sciences with at least eighteen (18) professional units in education; Experience: 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: LET.

(2) **Teachers III-SG-12**; Item Nos. TCH3-30348, 30353, Bachelor of Secondary Education or Bachelor's Degree plus 18 professional units in Education with appropriate major preparation; Two years of teaching experience; Eligibility: LET

(1) **Guidance Counselor II**; SG-11; Item No. 30014; Bachelor's Degree in Education or its equivalent with 20 Masteral Units; Experience: Guidance Counselor I; Eligibility: LET.

(1) **Senior Bookkeeper-SG-9**; Completion of Two years studies in College; One year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service (Subprofessional); First Level eligibility

(1) **Security Guard I-SG-3**; High School Graduate; Experience: None required; Eligibility: Security Guard License; (MC 11s. Cat. II)

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**DBP** Development Bank of the Philippines

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

**Supply, Installation, Testing, Training and Documentation of Enterprise Desktop Management System (DMS)**

Approved Budget: **Php 2.7M**
Contract Duration up to **October 31, 2003**

Application for eligibility check is open to suppliers registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission/Department of Trade and Industry and has been in the Information Technology (IT) business for at least three (3) years, must be at least 60% Filipino-owned (for partnership and corporations). Interested suppliers may secure the Eligibility Requirement Form from **August 4 to 6, 2003** at the Procurement Services Division, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City. Submission of the required eligibility documents shall not be later than **August 13, 2003** addressed to:

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Procurement Services Division/PSM
6/F, Development Bank of the Philippines
Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
Fax No. 8151614, E-mail address: procure-psm@devbankphil.com.ph

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Executive Order No. 40 s. 2001 will be used in the conduct of this Bidding.

The Bank reserves the right to reject documents which do not comply with the requirements.

For further inquiries, please call Mr. Manuel A. Tagalo at telephone numbers 8129428/8151613.

**Bids and Awards Committee**

(PDI--July 24 & 31, 2003)

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## Service Technician

**Description:** a trading company engaged in the supply of beverage dispensers, has immediate job opening for Service Technician.

**Skills Required:** Qualified candidates will have a Mechanical Engineering Background or at least 1 year hands-on experience in Refrigeration Service. Strong understanding of refrigeration theory and the ability to read ladder diagrams also required. Sales and Marketing experience is a plus. Must have good communication skills both in written and oral English. Must be willing to travel and have a valid driver's license.

Please send your resumé before July 31, 2003 to:

Total Corporate Network Inc.
1903-B West Tower
Philippine Stock Exchange Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City
Attention: Ms. Michelle Urgena

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PHOTO/MASK EQUIPMENT - HITACHI HLM A60 Auto Cut Laminator (1997); (5) ORC HMW 201/HMW 680 Exposure Machines (1997); (3) DAINIPPON DR 565F X/Y Measuring Machines w/ Camera; KODAK "Kodamatic 7200" Processor; DAINIPPON RG400 Laser Plotter; (3) Dry Film Laminators; (16) C-SUN 2-Door Ovens; C-SUN UVC 844S UV Curing Oven; C-SUN CLO-7-5 5 Zone Oven (1997); HP "Kayak" CAD/CAM Computers c/w Planmaster Software (2001)
INSPECTION & TEST EQUIPMENT - ORBOTECH SK65 Automatic Optical Inspection Machine (2002); ORBOTECH VRS-4-Li Verification Station (2002); (2) UTRON 8000 HV III High Speed Bareboard Testers (1997); AIKOH 1310N Load Tester (1997); CMI XRX 50 X Ray Thickness Measuring Machine (1997); SHIMADZU UV1201 Spectrophotometer (1997); COSMOPACK SMA 222 Vacuum Skin Packer (1997); OLYMPUS PME 323 Inverted Microscope c/w Camera; (50) Microscopes; Large Range of Measuring Tools
CLEANING & PLATING LINES - PAL 3 meter Copper Plating Line (1997); AEL Electroless THP Copper Plating Line (2001); PAL Gold Tab Plating Line (1997); TCM Pre Etch Line (1997); TCM Develop Etch & Strip Line (1997); TCM Desmear Line (1997); TCM Copper Foil Surface Prep Line (1997); TCM Lamination Finish Line (1997); UNICOTE 175 Hot Air Solder Level Line (1997); (5) IML Scrubbing Lines
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## PINAY SPELLING CHAMP

Astrid Regina A. Salazar, 15, won the Gold Medal in Spelling at the recent International Student Convention held at the Liberty University. Salazar, a junior at the Metropolitan ICA, bested high school delegates from around the globe including those from the United States, Canada, South Africa, among others. With her are PCC Chairman Dr. Manny Hipol and Coordinator Lita Enriquez during the Filipino Week at the Philippine Cultural Center, VA Beach.

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## MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family and relatives of the late

## ATTY. NICANOR CABULISAN FUERTES

*who joined his Creator on July 19, 2003*

Sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

---

## ENGR. ENRIQUE T. MACAM

Retired professor of De La Salle University and MLQ University

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on July 21, 2003*
*at the age of 72.*

His parents **TIMOTEO** (†) and **LEONA** (†), brothers **CARLOS, RAMON** and **JOSE**, sisters **SOLEDAD, PAZ, CONCEPCION** (†) and **CORAZON**, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel Q, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. It will be transferred to Sta. Ana Church, Manila at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 27. Interment will be at Himlayang Filipino, Tandang Sora, Q.C. on Tuesday, July 29 after the Mass at Sta. Ana Church.

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## ATTY. CRISTETA ADAMOS FERIA

**Ambassador - Retired**
**Republic of the Philippines**

*Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord*
*on July 19, 2003 at the age of 84.*

Her bereaved family **Winnie*** & **Cards***, **Salud** & **Mar***, **Anita** & **Andy***, **Tony*** & **Lirio**, **Angelita*** & **James**, **Vicente Jr.** & **Letty**, **Belen** & **Kit**, **Pacita** & **Dodo***, **Rebecca***, **Julius*** & **Lina**, **Thelma**, **August** & **Marina**, **Vic** & **Cely**, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Chapel A-2, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 26, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the celebration of the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

---

Our Beloved

## ZENAIDA M. VICENCIO

*Peacefully joined our Lord*
*on July 22, 2003 at the age of 65.*

Her bereaved husband **Lucio C. Vicencio**; children **Val** and wife **Pat**, **Vergel** and wife **Kristy**, **Vivien** and **Vicky**, and grandchildren **Vinnie**, **Faye**, **Farah**, **Frances**, **Paul**, **Phoebe**, and **Pavin**, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in their residence in Arayat, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 27, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. in Cacutud Arayat Pampanga Cemetery.

---

**On the Fifth Death Anniversary of our beloved**

## BENILDO GOZAR HERNANDEZ

**who passed away on July 24, 1998, the family requests relatives and friends to remember him in prayer.**

**Masses will be offered today for the eternal repose of his soul at the following churches:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **St. Ignatius Village Chapel** | 6:30 p.m. |
| **Christ the King Parish**, Greenmeadows | 6:00 p.m. |
| **St. Joseph Parish Church**, Bongabon, Oriental Mindoro | 6:00 a.m. |
| **St. Ignatius Cathedral**, Camp Aguinaldo, Murphy | 12:15 p.m. |
| **St. John Bosco Parish**, Pasay Road, Makati | 12:00 p.m. |
| **Santuario de San Antonio**, Forbes Park | 7:00 a.m. / 6:00 p.m. |
| **Greenbelt Chapel**, Makati | 7:15 a.m. / 5:45 p.m. |
| **Asian Institute of Management**, Makati | 12:30 p.m. |

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## COL. ALEXANDER CAMBRONERO ALESTANTE

*Died peacefully on July 21, 2003 at the age of 71.*

His loving wife **Letty**; children **Sim** and **Belle**, **Girlie**, **Joidi** and **Marj**, **Alyer** and **Aileen**; grandchildren **Ten**, **Anya**, **Rad**, **Rob** and **Alyah** request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 11, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 26, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

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## SOLEDAD NEPOMUCENO DE JESUS

*Joined her Creator on July 21, 2003*
*at the age of 80.*

Her bereaved husband **Liberato**; children **Cynthia** and **Rey**, **Raul** and **Jenny**; grandchildren **Carol**, **Jun-Jun**, **Reret**, **Mia** and **Gabriel** (†), and her sister **Puring** request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at the family residence at #24 Paterio Aquino Ave., Tonsuya, Malabon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 24, 2003 at San Bartolome Catholic Cemetery after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at the Parish Church.

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*In Loving Memory*

**Twenty Third Death Anniversary**
of

## RECIO M. GARCIA

*who passed away on July 24, 1980*

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches today:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Christ the King**<br>101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., Quezon City | 7:30 a.m. | **Society of the Divine Word (S.H.P.)**<br>28 Scout Ybardolaza St., Kamuning, Q.C. | 7:00 a.m. |
| **Christ the King**<br>Project 7, Veterans Village, Quezon City | 7:15 a.m. | **St. Anthony's Shrine**<br>254 Manrique St., Sampaloc, M.M. | 7:00 a.m. |
| **Christ the King Parish**<br>Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City | 7:00 a.m. | **Sta. Cruz Parish**<br>Blessed Sacrament Fathers & Brothers | 8:00 a.m. |
| Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene<br>**Parish of St. John the Baptist**<br>910 Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, Manila | 7:00 a.m. | **Sta. Maria della Strada**<br>Katipunan Road cor. Pansol St., Q.C. | 6:00 a.m. |
| **National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes**<br>Kanlaon cor. Retiro Street, Quezon City | 7:30 a.m. | **Sta. Teresita Parish**<br>**Sta. Teresita Del Niño Jesus**<br>43 Kanlaon St., Quezon City | 7:00 a.m. |
| **Nativity of the Lord Parish**<br>151 Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, Quezon City | 6:30 a.m. | **St. Niño Parish Shrine**<br>Bukidnon St., Bago Bantay, Quezon City | 7:30 a.m. |
| **Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace**<br>**(Our Lady of EDSA)**<br>Edsa cor. Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City | 6:30 a.m. | **St. Paul the Apostle Parish**<br>3 Timog Ave., cor. Mother Ignacia St.<br>Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City | 7:00 a.m. |

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- MESSAGE OF THANKS
- DEATH ANNIVERSARY
- REQUIEMS

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## *Salome M. Cruz*

**"Oming"**

**March 10, 1919 - July 22, 2003**

Her loving husband Ildefonso (Eddie) (†); children Edward (†) & Elvie, Reynald & Gert, Aurora & Kevin, Elsa & Biboy, Charlie & Evelyn; sisters Caridad, Julia & Fe; grandchildren Bucky & Elisa; Gilbert, Dennis, Jona & Hazel; Richard; Mignon & Pietro, Lixan & Christian, Miguel & Emil; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Ascension Chapel, Sta. Rita Parish, Philam Homes, Q.C.

Cremation at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City on Sunday, 27 July 2003 at 9:00 a.m.

# Audi A6: Most successful business car in its class

BEING behind the wheel seems to be the preferred option of Germany's business elite. According to an independent study in Germany from Dataforce, most of them, when given the choice, opt for the Audi A6.

These times of globalization and rapid change have created, among buyers, an indisputable longing for genuine values, for the simplicity of true distinction.

The renaissance of more natural, high-quality materials and the new respect shown for precise handcrafting convey a clear message: consumers are increasingly turning their backs on cheap, disposable products. This trend justifies Audi's traditional belief in quality and love of detail. The Audi A6 has all the makings of an investment that will retain its long-term value.

With the quattro and tiptronic technologies, the Audi A6 has reached the future, acknowledged by a car magazine as it were as "one of the most original and handsome big car designs in 20 years—the only saloon that looks as if it belongs to the next millennium."

High speeds are reached without feeling it with its 5-speed tiptronic transmission, the car accelerates from 0 to 100 km/h 1.3 seconds faster than with the geared automatic transmission.

The A6 provides a ride that is comfortable and smooth as ever. Audi's tiptronic technology with Dynamic Shift Program automatically selects the gear best suited to each driving situation. Depending on the driver's individual style, DSP constantly selects the best time to change gear from an infinite amount of data. It not only takes account of the driver, but also of the road profile, and features special temporary functions which guarantee a spontaneous response from the gears whenever the situation demands. By "thinking" for itself, DSP relieves the driver's burden to a considerable extent.

### Power

The Audi Quattro permanent-wheel drive system uses sensors to "intelligently" distribute engine power to the wheel(s) with the best grip. Audi Quattro offers drivers greater enjoyment and confidence with its "active safety" characteristics. In extreme driving situations (sharp cornering, abrupt engine braking, loose surfaces, rapid standing-start acceleration) a Quattro can offer significantly higher traction than a rear wheel drive vehicle.

The 2.4 liter six-cylinder engine of the A6 displays all the high-tech features of a modern Audi engine construction: a compact V6 block, five valves per cylinder (total of 30 valves), variable camshaft control and a variable intake manifold. The V6 is designed as a torque-oriented alternative offering maximum refinement and a pleasant performance characteristic and a host of other impressive features.

Delivering 121 kW (165 bhp) and developing a maximum torque of 30Nm at 3,000 1/min., it has superb power buildup and its flexibility can be clearly felt when accelerating.

Thanks, however, to its flexibility (60-120 km/h in 14.3 seconds in fourth gear), the five-valve turbo also encourages a dignified, supreme and therefore economical driving style.

The intelligent tiptronic transmission has five speeds which allow for wide gear spacing: lower ratios for high pulling power and good acceleration from standstill, followed by higher ratios to reduce engine speeds and cut fuel consumption and noise at high road speeds.

In its basic form, tiptronic is similar to conventional automatic transmission. In the D lever position, the gears are changed automatically, depending on various parameters. If the driver wishes to change gear himself, he can move the lever into the manual operating mode. He can then command the transmission to change gear by moving the lever slightly forward to change up or backward to change down. The selected ratio is displayed on the instrument panel.

### Long service life

The fully galvanized body guarantees a long service life, thus ensuring a high resale value and helping to save resources. Product quality and environmental quality are one and the same at Audi. With the A6, Audi is in a position to offer a 12-year anti-rust warranty, a voluntarily assumed responsibility for used cars.

The Audi plant in Neckarsulm, where the Audi A6 is produced, was the first German automobile plant in the premium segment to satisfy the European Union's strict Eco-Audit and receive its seal of approval.

In the Philippines, the Audi A6 is surely gaining headway in establishing itself as the preferred car among the business class. Audi is available through its exclusive distributor, Auto Prominence Corp. whose showroom and service facilities are located at 2326 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City.

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## AUTO EXTREME AUTO BYTES

**Catch AUTO EXTREME every Saturday, 2:30 PM on RPN 9 and log on to www.autoextreme.tv**

What is better, disc or drum brakes and why?
—*Hans Christian dela Victoria of Negros Occidental*

ONE of the first steps taken to improve braking on a widespread scale came when manufacturers switched from drum to disc brakes. Most modern cars now have disc brakes on the front wheels, and some have disc brakes on all four wheels. Before you can appreciate the difference between drum and disc brakes, you have to understand the major factors that come into play when stopping a car: friction and heat. By applying friction to a turning wheel, a vehicle's brakes cause the wheel to slow down and eventually stop. A byproduct of this action is heat. How quickly this heat is removed from the brake is where the big difference lies between drum brakes and disc brakes.

Drum brakes got their name because the components are housed in a round drum. Inside was a set of brake shoes that forced themselves against the drum and slow the wheel when the brake pedal was pressed. This basic design proved effective under most circumstances, but it had one major flaw. Drum brakes can only operate as long as they can absorb the heat generated by this friction. Once the brake components themselves become saturated with heat, they lose the ability to stop a vehicle.

Disc brakes, on the other hand, have proven far superior to drum brakes because the new system tossed out the drum, thus greatly reducing its tendency to overheat or cause fading.

Instead of housing the components within a metal drum, disc brakes use a slim rotor and small caliper that remain exposed to air, thus providing constant cooling. The system itself works similar to bicycle brakes that have a caliper which squeezes the brake pads against the wheel. In a disc brake, the brake pads squeeze a rotor instead of the wheel.

The weaknesses of drum brakes and the strengths of disc brakes were first illustrated in racing. Racers with disc brake systems could carry their speed "deeper" into a corner and apply greater braking force at the last possible second without overheating the components.

Eventually, although more expensive to manufacture, this technology filtered down to the cars driven by most people today.

---

**FROM LEFT are PSSupt. Romeo S. Pagalilauan, deputy director, Logistics; PCSupt. Antonio P. Billones, director, Logistics Service; PDDG Edgar B. Aglipay, deputy chief director, PNP; Rodrigo T. Janeo, SVP for finance and treasury, UMC; Leo P. San Juan, chief operating officer, Nissan Commonwealth Inc.; Lani de Leon, senior manager, Ad and Promo, UMC; Benjamin Y. Bontia Jr., VP and general manager, Nissan Commonwealth; and PSupt. Reuel Leverne B. Labrado, chief, Procurement Division.**

# A fleet of achievement for Universal Motors

UNIVERSAL Motors Corp. through its dealership, Nissan Commonwealth, has once again gained a fleet of achievement having been chosen by the Philippine National Police to provide the agency's patrol vehicle requirements for the current year.

This is true to its reputation as a leading manufacturer and distributor of Nissan light commercial and recreational vehicles in the country.

"This is truly a vote of trust and confidence on UMC's products and the Nissan brand," said UMC senior vice-president for finance and treasury Rodrigo T. Janeo during the simple handover ceremony held at PNP's Main Headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Said Janeo: "Through the years, we have always aimed at providing the best performing LCVs to our clients; that which not only meet the highest standards of quality but fulfill the multifaceted needs of our most discriminating customers. We are honored that the PNP under the supervision of director general Hermogenes Ebdane has awarded us their fleet account."

Universal Motors delivered 58 units of Frontier 4x4 through Nissan Commonwealth for the use of the Provincial Management Group of PNP. The vehicle acquisition is in line with PNP's modernization program in an effort to upgrade the agency's peace and order capability nationwide. This is part of the supplemental budget previously approved for PNP by President Macapagal Arroyo in 2001.

The Frontier—PNP's pickup of choice—has been a consistent bestseller in the local market for three years in a row since 2000. This pickup which currently dominates the metro and provincial roads is widely popular for its rough and tough appeal.

Possessing a rigid exterior, tough underchassis and powerful 3.2-liter diesel engine, the Frontier's brute strength allows its driver and passengers to conquer the most wild terrains and territories perfect for a law enforcer's most demanding of tasks. It is equipped with a host of safety features that provide optimum security and driveability for our men in uniform.

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# Froi writes to say Lancer is No. 2

**FULL TANK**

*Al Mendoza*

THE SENATE reopens next week and it will be marked by the State of the Nation Address (Sona) of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The President will deliver her traditional speech in Congress on July 28.

Will it be a valedictory? Meaning, will it be her last Sona? It will be if she will fulfill her vow not to run for President in May 2004. Others are saying Ate Glo might speak on her favorite battle cry these days: Strong Republic.

Whatever, it will be a Sona being eagerly awaited by us and the foreign community, particularly those from America's eyes and ears at the US Embassy. It could yet be the Sona that would put an end to all questions about her running or not in 2004.

* * *

**I mentioned the Senate's reopening also because it would mean that the Excise Tax Law on vehicles would soon be finally passed on third reading.**

**That is also being anxiously awaited for by the automotive industry long suffering from held-back decisions in lieu of impending radical adjustments of vehicle prices in the fourth quarter of the year.**

**As was discussed lengthily here previously, the new excise tax law would peg higher levies on steeply priced vehicles based on value. Meaning, excise tax will soon be based on factory price, possibly starting September.**

* * *

Here's a letter from Froi Dytianquin, senior manager-Marketing Services, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp.

"Dear Al,

"I read your 'Full Tank' column today (July 17), basically highlighting the performance of the industry as well as its players. If I may just add the following points:

"On the passenger car sedan segment, please note that on year to date basis, the new Lancer is now second to the Altis (2,081 units sold) with 930 units sold.

"The new Lancer, which is only available in 1.6 model (same as the Altis), has jumped to second as the second best-selling mid-sized sedan in the market. (Froi, just for the record, a friend of mine owns a 1.8G Altis.)

"The new Lancer has already surpassed Honda Civic sales even with its combined 1.5 and 1.6 sales of 561 units.

"I believe this scenario was missed out in your article, which could have provided the true market performance of the mid-sized sedan players.

"Just for your information, the mid-sized sedan or 1.6 segment is currently the largest contributor in the total passenger car segment at 45 percent.

"Of course we all know that the small sedan (1.3 to 1.5 segment comprises 37 percent) will soon catch up, what with the entry of the new Toyota Vios and City models.

"Additionally, we all know that the passenger car market suffered the most with the deferment of the approval of the new excise tax bill. Currently, it is down by 15.7 percent from the same period last year. And to encourage buyers of passenger cars, who are really waiting for prices to go down (once the new excise tax is passed), we have initiated a promo for the new Lancers this month. (Please allow the plugging?)

"Simply put, we have readjusted the prices of the new Lancer to match the anticipated drop in prices once the new excise tax is implemented. As you know the new excise tax will drop the prices of 1.6 passenger cars to an average of P65,000 and this is what we have actually provided in our promo.

"The discounts to be provided can also be used to finance the purchase of the new Lancer, wherein buyers can choose from Zero Interest Plan up to 36 months for the Lancer 1.6 GLS automatic, or low monthly or low down payment plans. This Lancer promo is available at all Mitsubishi dealerships nationwide until Aug. 15, 2003.

"Hope you can accommodate in your next 'Full Tank' column?

"Thanks and best regards."

Thank you, too, for the clarification, Froi. Appreciate it.

* * *

**Incidentally, to those not yet in the know, Mitsubishi has always been the traditional partner of the Philippine Open, the oldest and most prestigious golf championship in Asia. Born in 1913 at the Manila Golf Club, the Open will be held in December.**

**Talks are on to return the RP Open to the Manila Golf Club and Sonny Vistan, MGC president, has initially signaled his willingness to have it at MGC. Heritage and prestige are the biggest come-ons for Sonny V & Co. to have the Open back to where it all began.**

**Of course, it will be doubly significant if Mitsubishi is with the Open again this year. That will make for interesting reading as all traditions are, don't you think so, Froi? I think Mel (Dizon), Mitsubishi's ever-reliable top gun, agrees.**

* * *

Rev Magazine will launch the Philippines' first motoring game show, "The Rev Challenge," on July 29, 11:30 p.m., over Studio 23. Conceptualized by Rev Magazine editor in chief Vernon B. Sarne and trivia master Bong Barrameda, "The Rev Challenge" aims to promote popular interest on cars and motor sports.

Questions like "What is the Toyota Echo called in Europe?" "Where did Honda get its name?" "Which car did Mitsubishi use in the World Championship Rallye?" "In what year was Ford Motors established?" will spice up the show, with the Trivia champion winning yet a car.

For its maiden season, the show will have 13 episodes, producing 12 episode champions and one overall champion. The contest involves a quiz portion with motoring questions, and a physical-challenge portion where the round winners will pit automotive skills against each other.

"The Rev Challenge" is for 18 years and above who hold a driver's license. Call 1-908-1-REVMAG (1-908-1-738624) for other details. The show will shoulder the transportation and accommodation expenses of participants from distant provinces.

"The Rev Challenge" is sponsored by Ford Motor Co. Philippines, Kia Motors, PLDT myDSL, PLDT Hype, PLDT Vibe, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines and Isuzu Philippines Corp.

**QUOTE ME. Respect the traffic lights. The habit can save lives.**

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## CIVIC MEDIA CHALLENGE

# Tightest-ever 1-2-3 finish marks last round

THE TIGHTEST-EVER 1-2-3 finish in Media Challenge history marked the rain-drenched final round of the Civic Media Challenge held on the tarmac grounds of the Quirino Grandstand at Rizal Park last Saturday.

Team Philippine Star's Lester Dizon and Brian Afuang came through with clutch performances to pip second placer Team C! Magazine Auto Extreme by a mere 1.63 seconds. The best times of three of four team members are counted toward the team record.

C! Magazine-Auto Extreme, led this time by Kenneth Quintal with strong support from James Deakin and Kevin Limjoco, was the fastest team following the first heat in sunny conditions.

But with rain threatening to fall, Dizon came up with his best performance of the Media Challenge, improving on his first heat time by more than 8 seconds, finishing fifth fastest of the day and pulling his team to the top of the podium for the round.

Coming in third was Team Manila Bulletin, led again by the two-time Media Challenge driver of the year Anjo Perez who had the third fastest time of day set in the first heat. Strong support came from Aris Ilagan but this was not enough as the Team C! –Auto Extreme beat Manila Bulletin by just seven hundredth of a second.

Meanwhile in the individual competition, Dodjie Aguila of Team DRP-K-lite-Today finally lived up to his billing as one of the favorites, being the fastest driver of last year's Media Challenge. Aguila drove a flawless second heat to set the fastest time of day, a 1:27.03 just before rain beganto fall and making the course too slippery for rivals to improve on their performance.

Second to Aguila was Jess Garcia of Team dzRH, among the consistent podium finishers in the four rounds of the Media Challenge using 2003 Civic competition vehicles powered by a 1.6-liter Honda VTEC 3 engine, the most powerful engine in its class with 130 horsepower.

Perez tried valiantly to improve on his first heat time of 1:29.23 but even his proven driving skills and the grippy Michelin tires could not overcome the wet conditions.

Other members of media who participated in this year's Civic Media Challenge, the most exciting in six years, represented ABS-CBN News, Auto Review, Motoring Today, Auto Extreme and Associated Press from television; dzBB, dzMM, dzEC, dzRH and 103.5 K-Lite from radio; Business World, Manila Bulletin, The Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Standard, Today, C! Magazine, Gadgets, and Sport Weekly from print.

Also participating are writers from Autoindustriya.com, Dragracingpinoy.com and Drive.com.ph.

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# *Mitsubishi promo for 3 vehicles ends soon*

OWNING a Mitsubishi vehicle has never been this easy as Mitsubishi Motors Philippines has launched new promos for its all new Lancer, Adventure Super Sport and Grand Sport models and L300 FB.

For the Lancer, Mitsubishi has adjusted prices to an average of P65,000 to match the expected drop in prices when the new excise tax is implemented. Basically, buyers of the new Lancer don't have to wait for the implementation of the new excise tax in which the affectivity is still uncertain up to now.

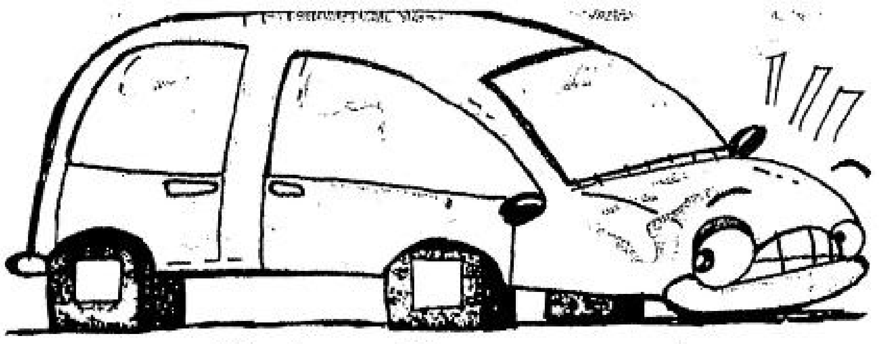
Financing buyers can also avail of zero-interest plan up to for 36 months for the Lancer GLS AT, or pay as low as P7,742 for 60 months (at 50 percent down payment) for the Lancer GLX M/T. Low down-payment plans are also available as buyers can avail of the Lancer GLS AT for as low as P83,000 down payment.

Meanwhile, the Adventure Super Sport or Grand Sport buyers will be treated to a new Pioneer home entertainment system as a free gift from Mitsubishi.

Both Lancer and Adventure promos will run until Aug. 15.

Finally, as a treat to entrepreneurs, Mitsubishi Motors will provide free dual air-condition system for L300 FB cash buyers. The L300 FB best fits any business as it can be easily converted into cargo or people carrier. This L300 FB promo ends on July 31.

All these promos are available at all Mitsubishi dealerships nationwide.



# Being tire smart

## ON THE ROAD

*Aida Sevilla-Mendoza*

IN A WAY, tires are like shoes. When you look at a pretty woman from head to toe, you notice whether her shoes look as good as she does. Or are they ill-fitting, worn down at the heels, shabby? Similarly, when you admire what initially appeared to be a snazzy car, you get turned off if the tires are worn out and in poor condition.

But tires do more than affect the esthetics of a motor vehicle. The safety and comfort of your trip depend on the condition of the tires as much as on the condition of the car. Tires also have an impact on fuel efficiency since underinflated tires can lower gas mileage by 0.4 percent for every psi (pound per square inch) drop in pressure of all four tires.

Yet motorists tend to neglect their tires, often because they do not know the basics of proper tire care and maintenance. We all know that tires should have the correct air pressure to maximize their life span and performance, save fuel and help prevent road accidents, but few of us check the tire inflation pressure regularly. Experts advise checking at least once every month (including the spare) and before every long trip.

### Check when cold

The air pressure should be checked when the tires are cold, which means they have not been driven for at least three hours. Corollary to this, the air pressure should never be reduced when the tires are hot from driving.

I myself could not remember the last time I checked the air pressure in my spare tire when I changed the tires of my car last week. When we checked the spare tire, instead of 26-28 psi, its air pressure was found to be only 17 psi!

Another misconception some have is that the tires should be slightly underinflated when the car is fully loaded. On the contrary, the tires should be a little bit overinflated when the car has a full load of cargo and/or passengers. Severely underinflated tires may be damaged beyond repair even if they are run only short distances. Incidentally, the maximum load and maximum inflation of a tire are among the information printed on its sidewall. However, some people mistakenly think that the max inflation indicated on the sidewall is the correct inflation pressure.

### Improper inflation

Underinflation causes both outer edges of a tire to wear out prematurely, thereby compromising handling especially when cornering and steering through curves. Overinflation causes the center portion of the tread to wear out before the outer edges do, thus driving in the rain becomes hazardous because the slick center portion has lost much of its traction.

Aside from improper inflation, an unbalanced wheel and tire assembly, misaligned wheels in the front or rear, malfunctioning brakes or shock absorbers, bent wheels, worn bushings and other mechanical problems cause uneven and rapid tread wear. Front-wheel-drive vehicles and those with independent rear suspension require proper alignment of all four wheels. Sometimes, tire rotation corrects irregular tire wear.

The high acquisition cost of tires makes their proper care good business practice. Punctures, cuts, breaks and other damage caused by potholes, nails, shattered glass, sharp metal (such as an open tin can) and debris found on roads, parking lots and driveways can be minimized through careful driving. Stones and gravel embedded in the tire treads may damage the tire, so don't laugh if you see your car-loving neighbor inspecting his tires and removing these foreign objects.

### Four-letter word

Proper tire care can be summed up in a four-letter word: PART—Pressure, Alignment, Rotation and Tread. PART was used last April by the Rubber Manufacturers Association (RMA) for the slogan of its campaign to educate motorists on tire care and maintenance. RMA, which has more than 100 member-companies including Bridgestone, Continental Tire, Goodyear, Michelin, Pirelli and Yokohama Tire Corp., led a "Be Tire Smart—Play Your PART" tour across the Pacific Northwest and West Coast. After all, being tire smart does pay off in terms of improved safety on the road, fuel economy and money saved.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of the feet.

* * *

*E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.*

# New tire takes riding comfort to next level

By Charles E. Buban

DESIGNING tires that combine ultra-high performance and grand touring features was once thought to be unattainable but one tire manufacturer dared and succeeded.

This unique tire design is now being praised for its ride quality and noise comfort while delivering "real world" handling.

The AVS dB is Yokohama's latest addition to its Advanced Vehicle System product range that is meant for high-performance vehicle owners who put more weight on comfort.

The dB in the AVS refers to decibel (the unit of measurement used to quantify sound pressure), which is the main attribute of this tire variant—producing the quietest ride to date.

### Silent tire

With this "silent" tire, Yokohama has succeeded in redefining the limits of low-noise driving and setting new standards in terms of quiet run and comfort.

"The AVS dB is an innovation from Yokohama designed for the upper-middle and top-of-the-range markets. The tire ensures low-noise and relaxed driving comfort," explained Hermis Getubig, assistant sales manager of Yokohama.

The tire's "tusk" shaped grooves minimize noise while all of the tread block sizes and shapes were specifically developed to help neutralize one another's noise patterns.

Also, Yokohama engineers designed these smaller tread block to avoid uneven wear to the tire tread.

Four straight wide grooves were also added to the design to effectively drain water to avoid aquaplaning at high speeds, which contribute to the tire's excellent performance in wet condition.

In addition to offering a high level of comfort, Yokohama engineers employed a new silica tread compound agent called Zeruma.

This proprietary processing agent allows engineers to disperse silica consistently in the rubber compound to ensure that the tire develops high grip performance levels both in wet and dry conditions.

"Intensive road tests have proved that the new tire, with its first-class handling characteristics, are right up there with the other top products from the AVS series such as AVS Sport (V102) tire, AVS S/T Type-1 (V801) high-performance tire for sports utility vehicles, and the AVS ES100 new-generation sport tire," said Getubig.

Getubig added that with the AVS dB, even regular cars become superior performers on the road.

WITH NEW tire design and compound, the Yokohama AVS dB gives new meaning to ride comfort and quietness.

# Prestige Cars Makati opens new showroom

PRESTIGE Cars Makati, the home of all things BMW in Metro Manila's premier financial district, opens its new showroom on Pasong Tamo Extension (the Makati Automotive Row).

Set on a 2,750 square-meter area, the three-story dealership had been sketched to take on an all-new showroom design.

"In our commitment to provide our valued customers with premium service we have invested in upgrading our dealer facility," said Jose E.B. Antonio, chair of Prestige Cars Makati.

Said Antonio: "Our showroom has been expanded to accommodate the growing line of BMW automobiles that are being made available for the Philippine market. There's also a lounge for our customers made even more interesting with the BMW Lifestyle display. All of which are consistent with the BMW corporate identity of being progressive and dynamic."

Prestige Cars (Makati) offers a complete line of the latest models of brand new BMW vehicles and BMW certified preowned vehicles. Visit Prestige Cars Makati and experience the 3 Series, 5 Series, X5 or the Z4 by scheduling a test drive today.

10,000
EXPORT VEHICLE
PROUDLY PHILIPPINE MADE
10000

FORD Philippines celebrates roll-off of 10,000th vehicle for export held in its plant at Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

# Ford. . .

From page B16

market five times more than the Philippines.

Co cited that the Lynx won the Car of the Year award at the 2003 Bangkok Motor show. Six months after Ford launched it in Thailand, the Escape continues to have back orders of more than a month.

"In 2001 our production is 2,000 units. This year, we will be producing 15,000 units," Co said.

"So in a span of three years, our production volume went up seven times," he added.

Co said, however, that the domestic, unfortunately, didn't grow as much. It's only about 3,000 units because of the problems in the domestic market that the country was unable to address.

### Problems

He cited some of the problems that need immediate solution: to make sure the right version of the value-based excise bill gets passed and for the country to take advantage of the unique opportunity to use export incentives.

Co added that this is not only to stop the migration of auto manufacturing to neighboring countries but to grow export volumes and establish the role of the Philippines in the Asean auto market.

He stressed that the country needs to implement the ban on used car imports and stop smuggling.

### Exports

Said Co: "This year, we will be exporting about 10,000 units of Escape. We are selling 1,000 units in the Philippines. So 10 is to 1. so what's the reason? We pay excise taxes of 35 percent. Our competition doesn't pay anything."

"So what do we do in that situation. We are an exporter. We help bring foreign exchange into this country. Does the competition do that?" he asked.

Ford Philippines has about $4,000 of Philippine-made components. It has about $1,000 of Asean components (Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia). It has about $2,000 of other local value add ons like paints, assembly charge, depreciation, for a total of roughly $7,000 value added for every unit.

Co said the revenues the government got out of that should be about $650 for every unit. So $650 times 10,000 is equal to $6.5 million. That's the government revenue.

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# MOTORING

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

10,000
EXPORT VEHICLE

**PARTICIPATING** in the ceremonial toast for the 10,000th vehicle roll-off are Ford Philippines president Henry T. Co, youngest employee Jing Gasataya, US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, Trade Undersecretary Gregory Domingo and parts maker head Feliciano Torres.

PHOTOS BY: ROGER CARPIO

# Ford Phils. flexes 'export muscles'

By Tessa R. Salazar

IT took about a year for Ford Philippines to reach its 10,000th unit for export.

And July 18 was a historic date as the automotive giant marked its 10,000th export vehicle roll off at the Ford Plant Philippines.

Ford Philippines has reasons to rejoice. In a span of three years, its production volume went up seven times.

## Production increase

Besides that, the 10,000 units for export are more than 12 percent of the auto industry in the Philippines—dramatically high by automotive standards.

About 9,900 vehicles have been shipped out to Indonesia and Thailand. These are Ford Escape, Ford Lynx, Mazda Tribute and Mazda 323.

Ford Philippines has convinced its Thai customer that Philippine-made products can be as good and even better than what they are used to, said Ford Motor Company Philippines president Henry T. Co.

Co recalled that the idea of importing Philippine-made vehicle was not easy for Thailand to accept at first. Thailand, which considers itself the Detroit of Asean, has a

FORD/ B17

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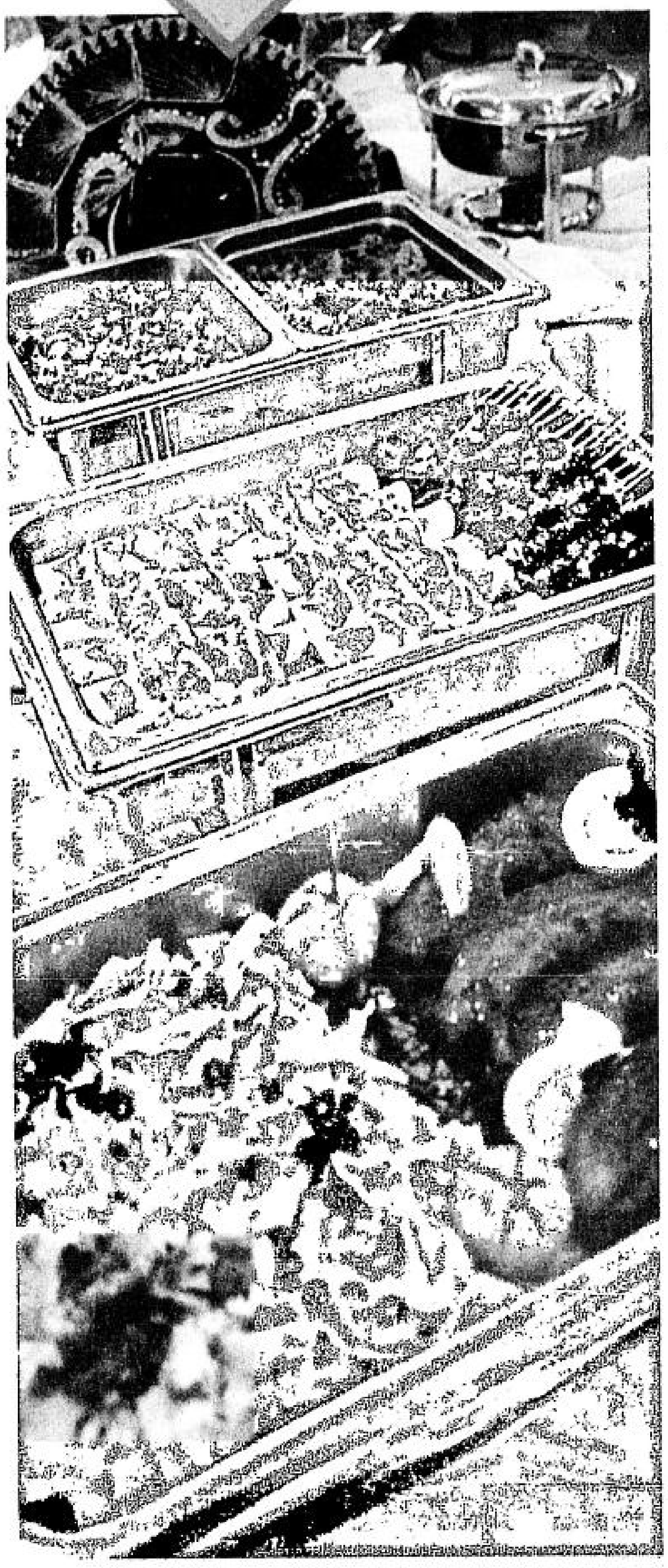
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

# Mexican 'aunt' prepares Filipino-inspired party dishes



AUNT'S feast

## Tia Maria's assures patrons they can get the right mix of Pinoy and Tex-Mex food suited to their taste and budget

**Text by Alex Y. Vergara**
**Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan**

AFTER beefing up its four outlets in Metro Manila, Tia Maria's, one of the country's pioneers and leading exponents of Tex-Mex cuisine, has relaunched its catering service with a range of

MEXICAN/ C2

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Cowboy Grill

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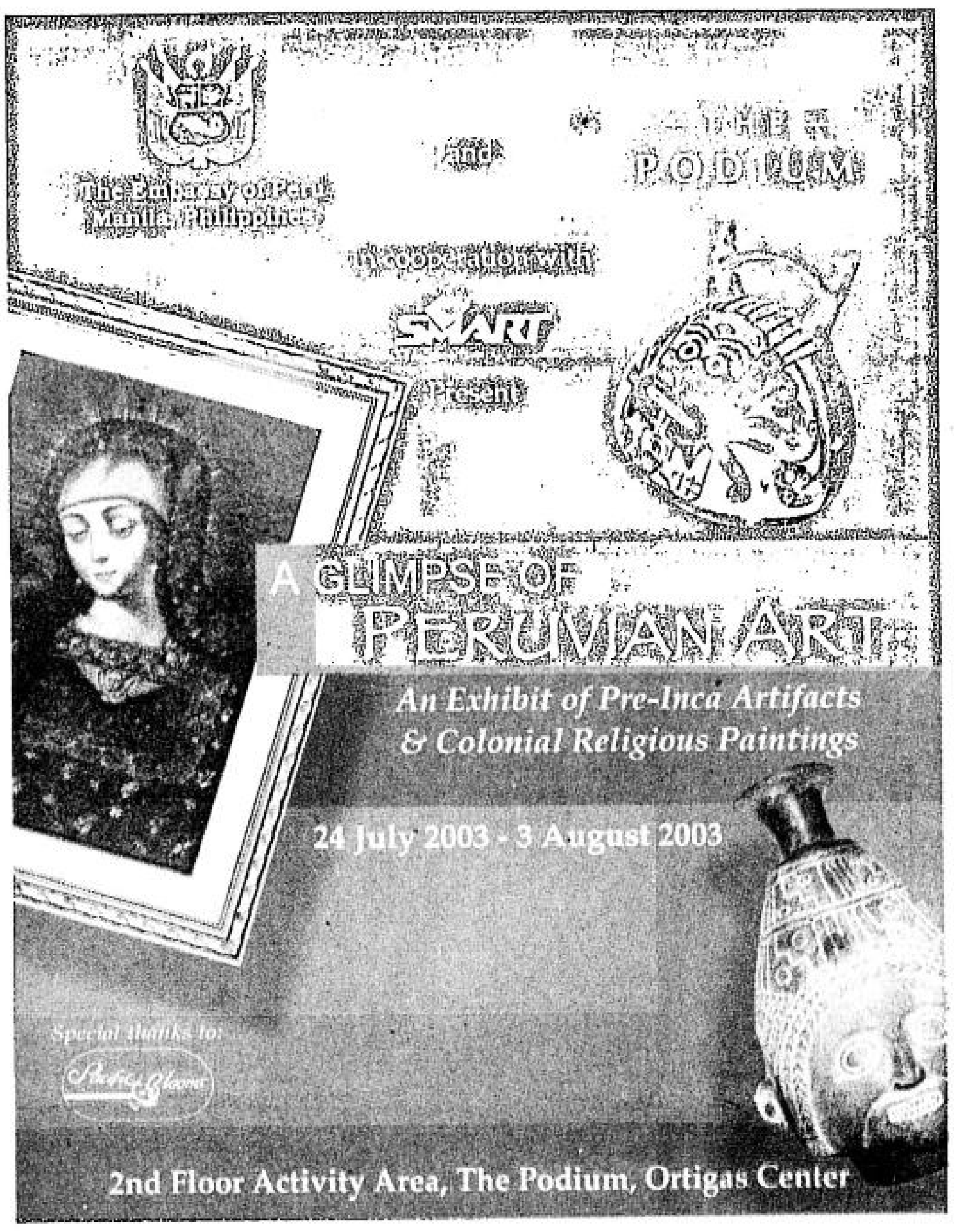
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HenySison

ITALIAN CULINARY LESSON (September 2003). A combination of five-day hands-on classes; and visits to food manufacturers, wine producers and vineyards, and charming family-run restaurants. Classes will be held in a rustic villa within a vineyard and a century old country inn. Visits to Milan, Bergamo, Sirmione, Verona and Lecco; and a side trip to Lugano, Switzerland, will be included in the schedule. Free time will be allocated for shopping as well. Last day for confirmed reservation is July 28, 2003.

THE ESSENTIAL BAKING AND PASTRY SERIES: This 26-day hands-on class will cover the basics of pastry, desserts, bread baking as well as cake decorating. It is suitable for those seeking an entry-level position in pastry shop, hotel or restaurant. Classes begin on August 14 - November 14, 2003. Classes are held every Thursdays & Fridays, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit.

For more information call 726-5316 and 412-7792 and ask for Lirio or Rita.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

August 1 (Friday) 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison, P1,500 *Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing

August 1 (Friday) 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS BARS & COOKIES by: Heny Sison, P1,500 *Food for the Gods, Carmela's Bar, Oatmeal Lace Cookies, Macaroon Cups, Revel Bar and Macadamia Cookies

August 4 (Monday) 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. PATTIES & TURNOVERS by: Chef Jill Sandique, P2,500 Food Consultant & Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School. *Jamaican Beef Patties, Cuban Empanada, Chicken Mushroom Turnover, Indian Samosas, Stromboli and Empanada Kaliskis

August 5 (Tuesday) 10:00 - 5:00 p.m. FRESH PASTA WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli, P2,500 Master Pizzaiolo & Barista, Food Consultant of various Italian restaurant all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Instituto, Milan, Italy *There is simply no comparison between homemade hand-formed pasta and the store bought stuff. Homemade is not only tastier but a lot easier to make than you think. Learn how to make pasta egg dough, green spinach dough, black pasta dough, different kinds of pastas: lasagna, green lasagna, ravioli, tortellini, cannelloni, fettuccine: green & black, stuffings for ravioli, tortellini and cannelloni. Sauces for lasagna, tortellini, ravioli & cannelloni. Recipes: Lasagna alla Bolognese, Lasagna al 4 Formaggi, Lasagna al Pesto, Cannelloni alla Ricotta and Spinaci, Ravioli alla Boscaiola al Burro e Salvia, Tortellini al 4 Formaggi, alla Panna Prosciutto e Funghi, Green Fettuccine alla Montanara, Black Fettuccine al Frutti di Mare. Demonstration with student participation.

August 6 (Wednesday) 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. EASY BAKING 2 by: Jill Sandique, *P1,500 Chocolate Cream Pie, Peach Upside - Down Cake, Pavlova, Russian Tea Cakes, Pecan Pie Bar & Triple Chocolate Brownies

August 6 (Wednesday) 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. COFFEE! COFFEE! COFFEE! by: Chef Aileen Anastacio, P1,500 Chef / Food Consultant, owner of C'est Si Bon and Goodies N' Sweet Bakeshop, graduate of culinary at the California Culinary Academy. * If you are planning to open a coffee shop this course is for you. Learn the four fundamentals of coffee brewing, home espresso, guide to steaming & foaming. Recipes: Caffé Latte, Caffé Mocha, Caffé Americano, Cappuccino, Espresso Macchiato and Espresso con Panna. Make fun toppings and garnishes and master the art of coffee making.

August 7 (Thursday) 9:30a.m. - 4:00 p.m. SIMPLE PLEASURES by: Jill Sandique, P1,500 *Creme Brulee, Mexican White Flan, Strawberry Tunnel Cake, Blueberry Peach Torte, Pineapple Crumb Cake & Gateau Sans Rival

August 8 (Friday) 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. ELEMENT DESSERTS MADE EASY by: Jill Sandique, P1,500 *Panna Cotta, Tiramisu, Profiteroles, English Trifle and Rustic Fruit Tart

August 8 (Friday) 2:00-5:00 p.m. SALADS AND MODERN SAUCES by: Chef Jane Paredes, P1,700 Food Consultant, co-owner of Café Cornucopia, trained at the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School *Green Salad Assembly with three dressings: Light Ranch Dressing, Walnut & Blue Cheese Vinaigrette, Carrot and Basil Oil, Grilled Chicken and Crispy Noodles Salad with Sesame Dressing, Modern Caesar Salad with easy to make dressing, Potato Apple and Smoked Bacon Salad with Warm Vinaigrette, Pineapple Barbados with Rum Butterscotch Sauce.

August 11-12 (Monday-Tuesday) 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CAKE DECORATING COURSE I by: Heny Sison, P4,000 Learn the basic of cake decorating: icing color, star, shell, dots & outline borders; the rose, figure piping: clown & booties. Each student will bake & decorate a character birthday cake. Full participation.

August 13 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. PIZZA CLASS WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli, P2,500 *In this class you will learn the history, concept and design of pizza making. Learn how to make pizza dough, tomato base sauce, white sauce base, preparation, set up pizza counter, know the ingredients and toppings. Recipes: Margherita, Napoli Classica, 4 Formaggi, Pizza Vegetariana, La Gibiana, Piccantina, 4 Stagioni, Calzone & Frutti di Mare. Demonstration with student participation.

August 18-19 (Monday- Tuesday) 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. CAKE DECORATING 2 by: Heny Sison, P4,000 Add amazing new skills to your cake decorating - the world of icing flowers, distinctive borders, flower sprays & specialty flowers. As a final project you will decorate a basketweave cake filled w/ cascading flowers. Full participation.

August 20 (Wednesday) 9:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. COOKIES FOR GIVING by: Heny Sison, P1,500 Springerle, Rugelach, Melting Moments, Macadamia Blondies with Caramel Glaze, Christmas Cantuccini and Snickerdoodles

August 20 (Wednesday) 1:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. JAPANESE RICE TOPPINGS by: Chef Koichi Kondo, P1,500 licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Haosbese restaurants Recipes: Oyako-don (Chicken & Egg on rice), Gyudon (Beef Bowl), Ten-don (Tempura Bowl), Katsu-don (Pork Cutlet Bowl), Soboro-don (Minced Chicken & Egg Bowl), Tori Teriyaki-don (Chicken Teriyaki) plus bonus recipe: Chahan (Japanese Fried Rice)

August 26 (Tuesday) 9:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. MUFFINS & SCONES by: Heny Sison, P1,500 *Banana Nut Muffins, Chocolate Chip Muffins, Apple Pecan Muffins, Blueberry Muffins, Apricot Raisin Scones & Traditional Sweet Scones: Bonus recipe: Clotted Cream

August 26 (Tuesday) 1:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. KOREAN COOKING I by: Chef Young Hee Kim Park, P1,500 Owner of Silla Korean Restaurant and Food Consultant to various Korean Resturants in Metro Manila *Beef Bulgogi (Barbeque: Tenderloin & Ordinary), Chicken Bulgogi (Barbeque: Chicken thigh), Pork Bulgogi (Pork Liempo), Chap Chae (Noodle: Korean noodle, mushrooms, vegetable, beef or pork) Mi Yuk Guk (soup: seaweed, beef or tahong) & Four kinds of appetizer (Dilis, Peanut, Spinach & Bean Sprouts), Bibimbap (Cold & Hot) & Kalbi Jhim (Braised Short Ribs Stew)

August 27 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. EDIBLE GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS by: Jill Sandique, P1,500 * Chocolate Pecan Coffee Cake, Orange-Glazed Bundt Cake, Lattice Topped Apple Pie with Cider Sauce, Chocolate Caramel Tart, Christmas Cookies and Chocolate Chip Banana Loaf

HENY SISON AT JULIUS MAGGI KITCHEN
Nestle Building, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City

August 5 (Tuesday) 10:00-5:00 p.m. SECRETS NO MORE! (My most requested recipes) P3,500 *Decadent Chocolate Cake, Lemon Torte, Ensaymada, Almond Sanzrival, Strawberry Shortcake & Ube Cake

August 25 (Monday) 1:00-5:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY RECIPES P1,500 *Dark Fruitcake, White Fruitcake, Walnut Torte, rum-Raisin Walnut Cheesecake, Festive Cookie Bar & Prune Bar

August 27 (Wednesday) 1:00-5:00 p.m. LIQUEUR CAKES P1,500 *Meyer Lemon Pound Cakes, Whiskey Cake, Espresso Cake with Hot Kahlua Syrup, Amaretto Cake, Grand Marnier Cake and Cointreau Cake

TUITION FEE includes ingredients. Reservation is required. Kindly bring an apron for workshop / full participation classes.

WEDDING & BIRTHDAY CAKE ORDERS by appointment only. We sell cake decorating, confectionery and baking supplies.

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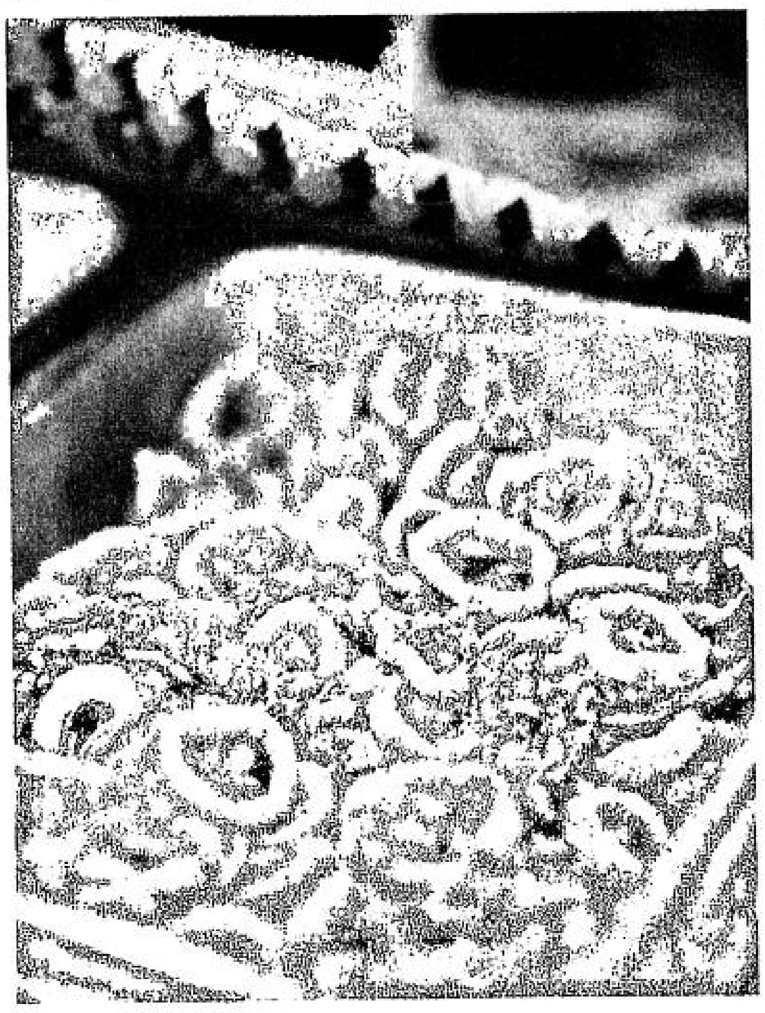
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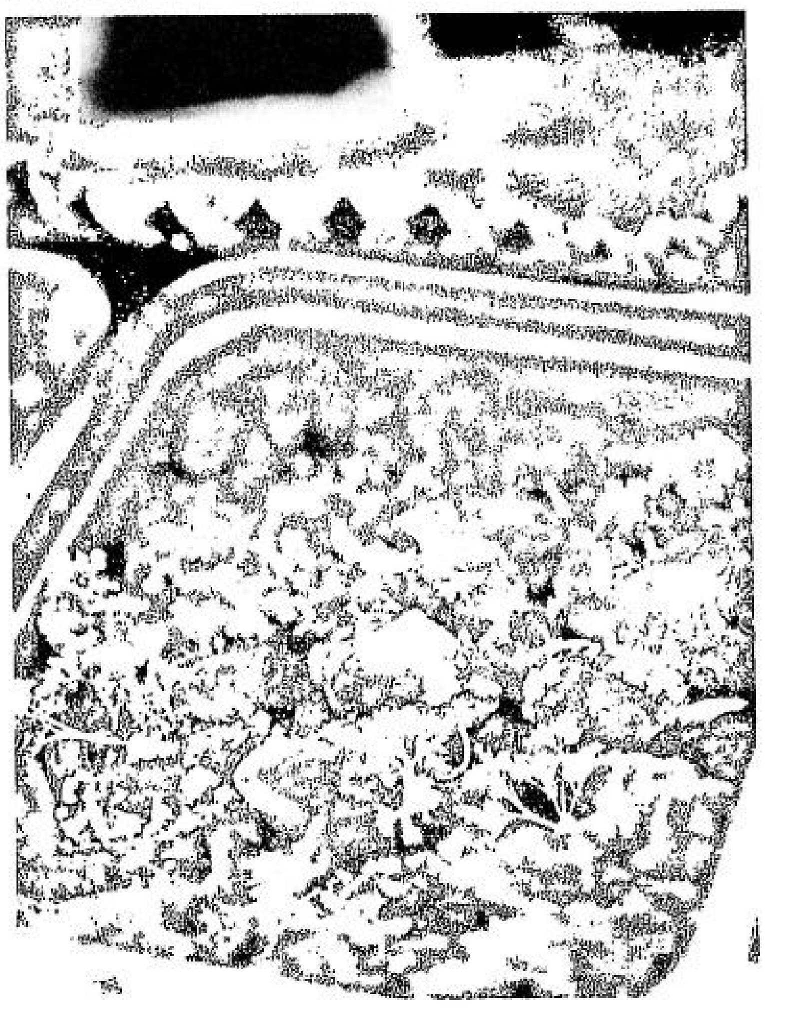

CHICKEN al Ajillo

# Mexican 'aunt' prepares Filipino-inspired party dishes

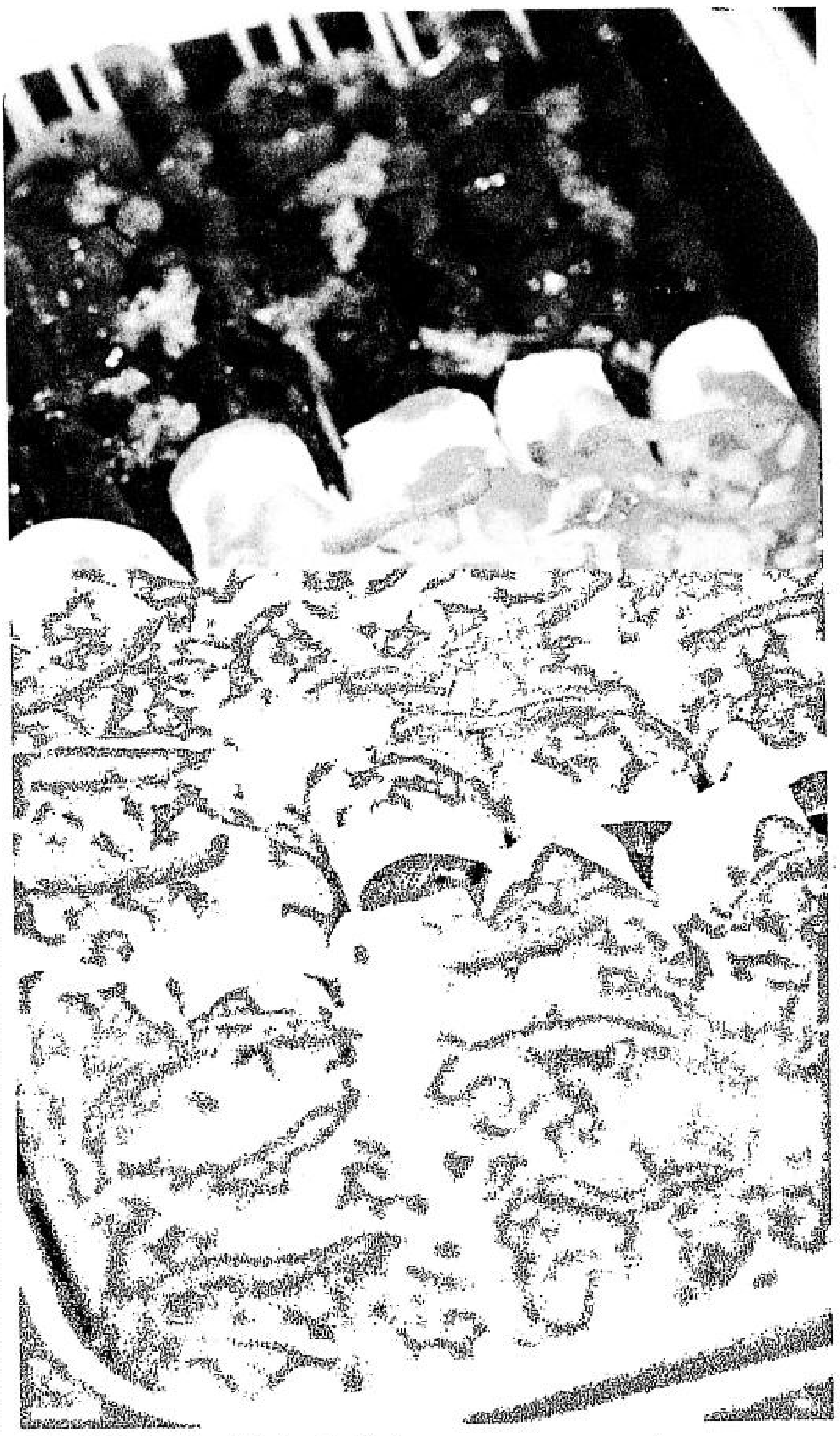
SPARERIBS

From page C1

party packages featuring Filipino-inspired dishes and old-time favorites.

"Catering is a direct response to our patrons' need for convenience," says Ruben Padilla, marketing manager of Tia Maria's and Cowboy Grill. "Since we take care of everything, from the preparation of dishes to the table setting, hosts are spared the headaches as they entertain guests."

No matter what their needs and budgets are, patrons are assured of finding the right mix of Pinoy and Tex-Mex food. Chicken *fajitas*, *nachos grandes*, *quesadillas*, Mexican pizza, *taquitos* and *flautas* have been around. The restaurant beefed up its menu several years ago by adding a number of local favorites: spareribs served with Mexican rice and corn kernels, barbecue a la Tia's and beef *salpicao*.


BARBECUE a la Tia's and Mexican Enchilada

A trip to Tia Maria's won't be complete without sampling some of its juicy hors d'oeuvres that go well with a can of beer or even an ice-cold glass of Tia Maria's trademark zombie (and, for the daring, a shot or two of authentic Mexican tequila). New items on the chain's list of *pulutan* are sizzling *gambas*, *sisig* and *calamares*.

"Our catering service is open to all sorts of combinations as long as the dishes are in the menu," says Padilla. "We're also open to minor adjustments, say, in the way the meat is cooked or the amount of spices to be used."

## Generous with advice

The restaurant's team of cooks and waiters is very flexible. For one, says Padilla, it can come up with the right mix of dishes based on a client's budget. Aside from being open to suggestions, the team is also generous with its advice to harried or clueless hosts.

"What's more," says Padilla, "guests can choose either a buffet or an a la carte presentation. We offer lunch, *merienda* and dinner packages."

One of the biggest parties Tia Maria's catered was an affair hosted by the Mexican embassy in Manila, with almost 200 guests.

Tia Maria's, through manager Zaldy Caasi, also welcomes smaller parties of 30 to 50 people. Caasi can be reached at tel. 371-1473 or 0916-3184236 for details.

Catering is different from reservations involving big groups that book an entire outlet or a portion of it in advance. Catering is set up outside the restaurant, usually in clients' homes or offices.

## Three days in advance

To lessen everybody's trouble, Padilla advises would-be hosts to make all the necessary arrangements at least three days before the big day. Bigger parties with hundreds of guests naturally require a longer lead-time.

"The outlet nearest the venue is usually assigned to handle the event," says Padilla. "But for really big events, our Tomas Morato Avenue branch handles them. Both Morato and Jupiter branches also deliver daily (tel. 890-4735 for Makati; 371-1473 for Quezon City)."

A typical party package includes the services of uniformed waiters, elegant table skirting and attractive centerpieces. Clients with money to spare can also avail of such extras as flower and balloon arrangements, photo and video coverage, and music from a live band.

"Aside from convenience, people are inclined to tap our services because of the way we present the dishes," says Padilla. "People are drawn to great-tasting dishes presented in an attractive manner."

And the country's favorite Mexican aunt knows how to do it.

*E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph*

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# Consumers commend good and prompt service

**THE CONSUMER**
*Marietta Velasco Giron*

IT GIVES us great pleasure to receive praises from readers once in a while. We like to publish positive feedback from readers.

Ray Ong (rayong88@hotmail.com), the reader who complained last week about his phone problem, was grateful and not surprised to find that his cell phone was working again. He complained earlier that the service provider locked his phone without notice.

Another happy man is Dr. Benito Vergara (bvergara@laguna.net) of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños and author of the user-friendly booklet on the Philippines' "Aglaonema," an indoor pollution-buster and garden plant.

He wrote: "I found out that the Land Transportation Office in Pila, Laguna, was doing an efficient job in renewing driver's licenses. My *balikbayan* son is pleasantly surprised that there are still efficient government offices despite the negative news reaching Filipinos living in the United States. Just recently, President Arroyo lambasted the LTO in Metro Manila for poor service."

We are also happy to hear about honest waiters and managerial staff. Grateful customer R. Natividad (reynatividad@ispbonanza.com.ph) has praises for KFC-Madison Square at Ortigas. He left his personal digital assistant (PDA) on the table at KFC when he and his girlfriend went there to eat. When he returned to the restaurant to ask about his lost PDA, he was quite relieved to learn that a member of the service staff found the item and went straight to the manager and left the PDA for safekeeping until it could be retrieved by the owner.

"Please mention the honest deed of KFC's service staff at Madison Square branch. I even offered their manager a small reward as a sign of gratitude. He declined it and said they were just doing their job. My PDA contained valuable information," Natividad wrote.

From Daisy Dee: "I bought a pair of my favorite Birkenstock slippers as a gift to myself. A few days after using it, I found cracks on the rubber near the straps. I called the attention of the staff of Via Venetto at SM City North Annex where I bought the item [and] was told to bring the slippers to the store. It didn't take long for Via Venetto's staff to replace the damaged slippers. Thanks to the helpful staff and the owner of this shop."

Teddy Sy, general manager of Asahi Electrical Manufacturing Corporation (117 Parada St., Sta. Lucia, San Juan City), responded in writing to the complaint of Vic Chin about defective electric fans. He wrote: "We have taken the best remedial steps to rectify the [problem] through proper coordination with the concerned appliance dealer. While this was a first-ever case for us (blades of our electric fan supposedly fell apart), Asahi nevertheless considered this an opportunity to prove once more that our service policy was one of the best in the industry. Technical support was rendered to our dealers so that untoward incidents of this kind would not happen again and to make sure proper installation procedures would be followed."

Sometime ago, we wrote about the complaint of Vic del Fierro, president of the Coalition of Consumer Protection and Welfare Organizations (vdelfierro@hotmail.com). His check deposit representing payment to the Bureau of Internal Revenue in the amount of P90,000 was inadvertently posted as P9,000 by a reckless teller of a bank.

Here's a portion of the letter from the bank's branch head, Ma. Cleofe P. Justiniani, who explained what happened on June 20, a Friday (the day Del Fierro's check was received by the teller): "At the end of the day, after gathering all documents for balancing purposes, the check payment was accidentally validated as P9,000 instead of P90,000. Hence, the teller responsible for the transaction was prompted to invalidate the payment and revalidate the correct amount. We are sorry for the inconvenience caused Vic del Fierro. Rest assured it will not happen again."

## Busy line

Calling R&E phone-a-taxi service. T. Garcia wrote: "Please (tell the) R&E management that it has become very difficult to access their call center. I tried to call their number some days ago, but to my dismay, all the numbers were inaccessible. Recently, I chanced to board an R&E cab. I complained to the driver, who did not hesitate to inform me that sometimes the operator of the call center hung up the phone so she could make *telebabad*!" (We tried to call the R&E phone number 364-9058, and found it always busy.)

Romeo J. Soriano boarded a taxi at the domestic airport and told the driver to take him and his companion to Proj. 6, Quezon City. The driver took the Nichols route, saying it was better considering it was 5:30 p.m. and traffic was heavy. He proceeded to Fort Bonifacio even though his passengers suggested taking the Guadalupe exit.

The passengers told the driver that he was taking a longer route. Peeved, the driver made a U-turn and stopped close to the compound of the Technology Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), dumped the passengers and their baggage on the road and asked to be paid the amount registered in the meter.

Soriano complained: "I reported this to the LTO action center (the number is written on a taxi coupon issued by an airport guard). The LTO took down the details, but I have no idea what happened."

## Missent remittance

Here's a reminder to the Bank of the Philippine Islands branch at Sto. Domingo, Quezon City, that received a dollar remittance sent erroneously to the closed account of the Evangelical Businesspeople and Entrepreneurs for Social Transformation. BPI was supposed to return the remittance to the sender in the US last July 11. As of July 14, the secretary general was still waiting for the bank to make good on its promise.

## Car owners' woes

We are still trying to get responses to the gripes of the following readers about car dealers' unfair practices, after-purchase service, and others: M.S. Bautista (canceled freebies on Honda Civic VTI), R. Cembrano (aftersales service on Ford Expedition) and A. Afable (Isuzu Crosswind).

*E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph*

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FAMILY togetherness is part of "Buhay Jollibee." It just gets better with every visit.

# Celebrating the Pinoy way of life

NOTWITHSTANDING the many trials and hardships that come our way, the unique relationship that Jollibee has with Filipinos gets deeper and more meaningful with the passage of time.

With Jollibee, there's always that enduring faith, that glimmer of optimism that there would always be better days ahead.

This message of hope has always been at the core of Jollibee's corporate vision and is now the centerpiece of its latest advertising and marketing campaign— *"Buhay* Jollibee. *Lalong Sumasarap."*

"Even though we launched this campaign only this year, 'Buhay Jollibee' actually has always been part and parcel of our business philosophy and everyday operations," says Inez Reyes, Jollibee's marketing manager.

"It is forever looking forward to the future, to caring and giving more, to bringing more happy moments to Filipino lives," she adds. "A Jollibee life is one full of good things that only get better with time."

Jollibee applies this guiding principle by continuously giving superior value to its customers. Jollibee finds ways to constantly improve its food products and services for absolute customer satisfaction.

Such innovations may be in the form of new food products like Chili Wings, a fresh take on a classic item, or the new sauce variants for Burger Steak, or even a new party concept.

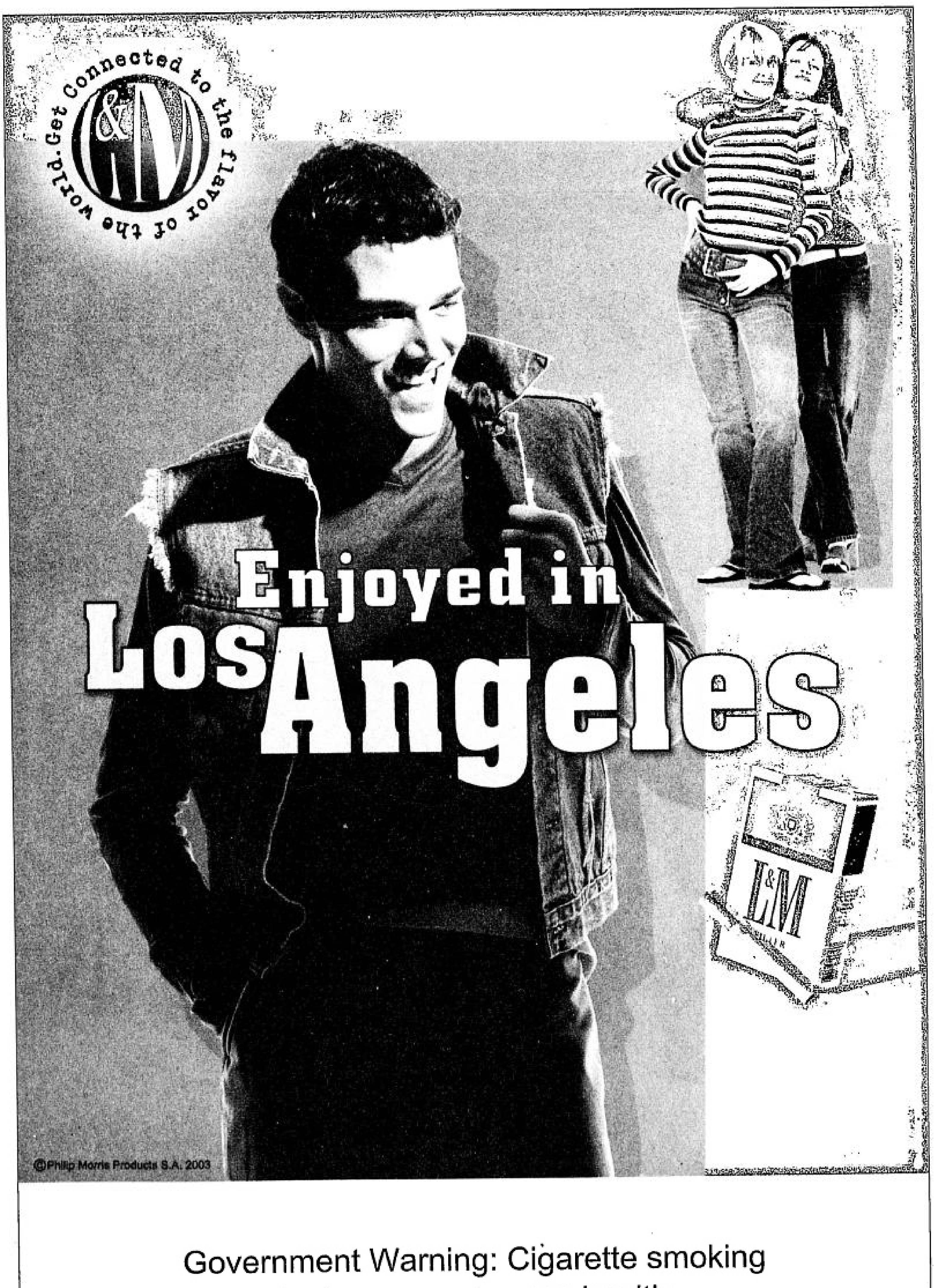
"Buhay Jollibee" has become part of everyday Filipino events and milestones.

It is a friendship that gets stronger through the years—like entering a newly opened Jollibee store abroad, savoring the familiar and sorely-missed familiar scents and flavors, and getting that feeling that although you're thousands of miles away, you are, at last, home once again.

It's also the fries that was your baby's first taste of what Jollibee's *langhap-sarap* goodness is all about. The crispylicious and juicylicious Chickenjoy that has become the culmination of the Sunday get-togethers with *lolo* and *lola*. The delectable Spaghetti Special and mouthwatering Peach Mango Pie served at your *bunso*'s birthday party.

"Buhay Jollibee" is simply a way of life—our way of life.

A JOLLIBEE visit is always a fun experience for Filipino kids.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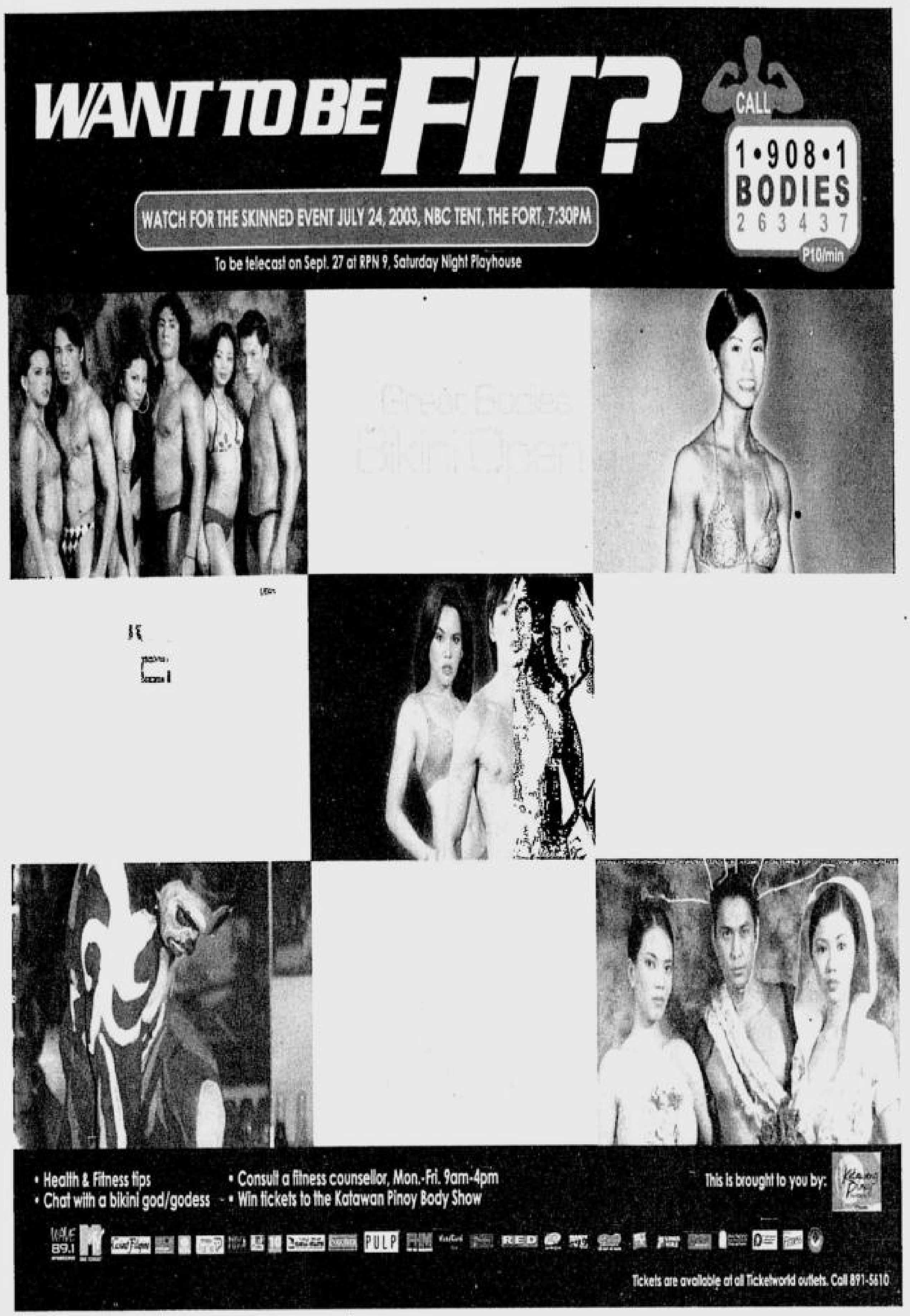
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MONTEREY

**MONTEREY AND FRANCHISEES' CONTRACT SIGNING**
**Monterey Foods Corporation President Arthur O. Juan reiterated the company's support for entrepreneurs and consumers during a reception for franchisees held recently. The get-together celebrated the renewal of ties between Monterey and the meatshop franchise holders. Mr. Juan assured Monterey's commitment to the industry through its Neighborhood Meatshops that provide opportunities and financial security to entrepreneurs, and offer consumers a complete selection of Monterey's fresh-chilled meats and ready-to-cook dishes. If you want to join the Monterey family, simply call Monterey Meatshop Development at 634-1010 local 1748. Shown in photo are (standing left to right): Joal B. Arellano (national meatshop operations & sales manager), Arlene P. Ledesma (marketing, franchising & sales manager), John R. Paguia (meatshop operations & sales head); (seated left to right): Mr & Mrs. Mario Orlanda (franchisees, Monterey Vigan), Arthur O. Juan (president, Monterey Foods Corp).**

## Forum on fad and healthy diets

SAN Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center is holding a forum on fad diets as a culmination activity for Nutrition Month.

The forum, to be held 1-5 p.m., Aug. 2 at the Valle Verde Country Club, will also give suggestions on what diet the health-conscious can follow.

Featured speakers are consulting clinical and sports nutritionist Sanirose S. Orbeta and culinary experts Chef Joey Prats and Jane Paredes, who will share with the audience nutritionally sound recipes for cooking and baking.

Just register as early as you can at 671-9876 local 402-405 and 259 to be part of this special event brought to you by San Miguel Purefoods Company, makers of Magnolia Inc., Purefoods Hormel, Monterey and Magnolia Chicken products.

## *Oven bags for healthier food*

GLAD Wraps and Bags offer a practical way to enjoy healthy, less fatty and greasy dishes using Glad Oven Bags.

Glad Oven Bags make it a lot easier to whip up roast chicken and beef, plus they lock in food moisture, keeping dishes succulent and more flavorful.

Glad Oven Bags are currently offered at a P10 discount in major supermarkets nationwide.

Find out
what's
news
on July 27.

# Sunday lunch buffet for families

**DINING OUT**

MARIO'S Restaurant offers appetizers, pastas, oysters, paella, roast beef, an all-you-can-eat Caesar salad, fruits and pastries for its Sunday lunch buffet. The Restaurant also celebrates Fil-Am Friendship Day this month by offering American dishes in Fourth of July Specials. There are buffalo wings, shrimp popcorn, beef and barley soup, avocado salad, seafood and sausage jambalaya, and apple pie. Call 634-3418 (Ortigas) and 372-0360 or 415-3887 (QC).

TRAMWAY Tea House celebrates its second year by giving a 20 percent discount on all its Cantonese delicacies from Aug. 1-31. Tram Star Tea House in Ortigas now serves dinner buffets at P195. Call 411-1565 (Banawe, QC) or 705-1614 (Ortigas).

SEGAFREDO Zanetti Espresso Bar at Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati City treats its patrons to a 15 percent discount on meals every weekend of July. The discount is applicable from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 12 midnight on Sundays. Call 757-4058.

FISHING Village Restaurant offers crab delicacies until July 31 at 50 percent off the regular price. The crabs are cooked in 10 ways: steamed with garlic, baked with ginger and onion, baked with black beans sauce, baked with salt and pepper, baked with chili garlic, steamed with egg yolk, steamed with sesame oil, Fishing Village special crab and fresh crab with sotanghon in clay pot. Call 536-8838 and 536-1916.

MAKATI Shangri-La's Inagiku Restaurant presents Live Sashimi until July 31. Executive chef Kimito Katagiri displays his skill in the art of preparing live lapu-lapu. Call 840-0884 and 813-8888.

RICE in a Box, the pioneer value-for-money chain of food kiosks, offers completely satisfying rice meals at highly affordable prices (from P33 to P39). The 28-store chain continues to expand via franchising. Check out the Rice in a Box kiosk in your favorite mall.

MANILA Pavilion presents "Pagayaya: Cagayan Valley Food Festival" on Aug. 4-15 at Cafe Coquilla. Delicacies like zinagan, sinanta, pinassuk na purong mori, caggu, agurung, pawa, and bebengka nga nanna will be featured.

CIRCLE Garden Grill offers roasted pork chop and liempo, inihaw na boneless bangus, tuna belly or panga, pusit and prawns. It also offers budget meals for as low as P24.50. Circle Garden Grill is located along Maysilo Street, Mandaluyong.

JADE Garden Cantonese Restaurant has ongoing rainy day promo, Dim sum Plus Lunch Treats. Jade Garden is located at Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati.

KIMPURA Japanese Restaurant features new dishes like tuna belly tepanyaki, juicy broiled salmon fillet in miso-flavored marinade, lean pork belly simmered in sweet wine and soy sauce, smoked salmon roll with lemon slices in a sushi roll and hand-battered Alaskan crab claws with creamy mashed potatoes. Kimpura is at Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati and Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan.

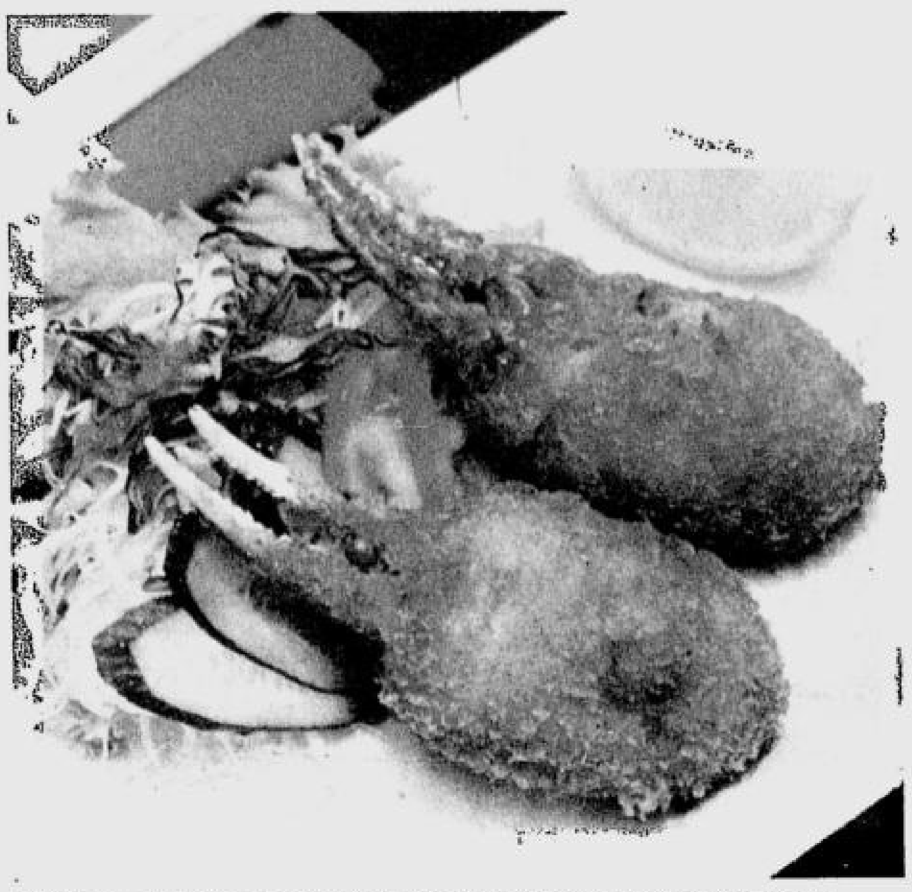
PEKING Garden offers Bonus Peking Duck Coupon promo until Aug. 10. For every dine-in order of Peking Duck, one BPDC is given. This coupon, valid until Oct. 31, may be used on the next visit, with a minimum food bill of P1,800. Peking Garden is at Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati.

CENTURY Park Hotel's Unkai Japanese Restaurant presents sushi, sashimi, a selection of cold dishes, tempura, and teppanyaki in its buffet. Call 528-8888.

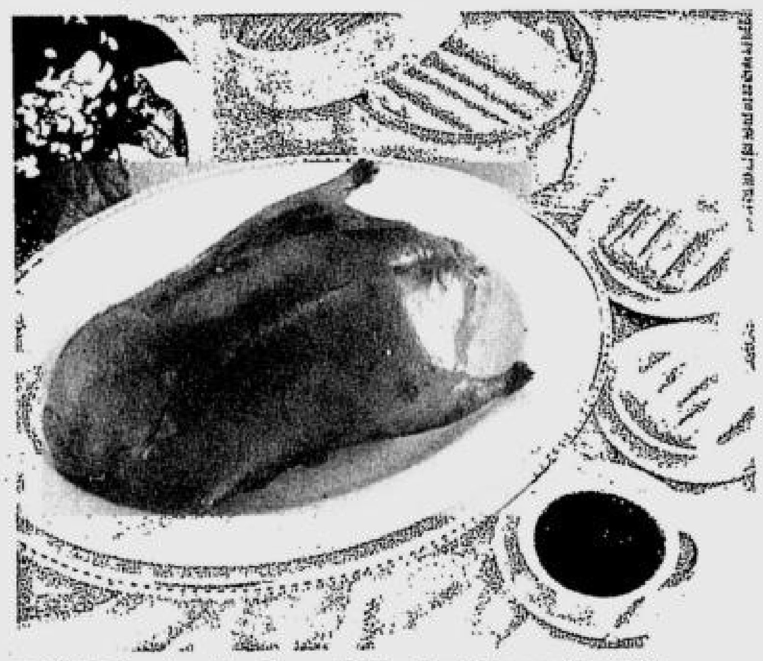
INTERCONTINENTAL Manila's Cafe Jeepney features tapas, scallops, baby squids and prawns (Mondays); dim sum, Mongolian and mixed grill stations (Tuesdays); Peking duck carving station and mixed grill meats and fish (Wednesdays); rib eye scented with rock salt and pepper herbs with gravy sauce (Thursdays); oysters, prawns and mussels (Fridays); a la Provencale style dishes, fruit fritters and mixed grill items (Saturdays); and crepe, dimsum and mixed grill (Sundays). Call 815-9711.

THE RICHMONDE Hotel's Grill offers new additions to its luncheon buffet. These are paella, pasta meals, and Mongolian barbecue grill items. Call 638-7777.

CITYSTATE Tower Hotel's Tower Cafe features Daily Lunch Buffet, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. All-time Filipino Favorites are served on Mondays; International Cuisine, Tuesdays; Barbecue Parade, Wednesdays; Chinese Classics, Thursdays; and Seafood Fiesta, Fridays. Call 400-7351 to 61.

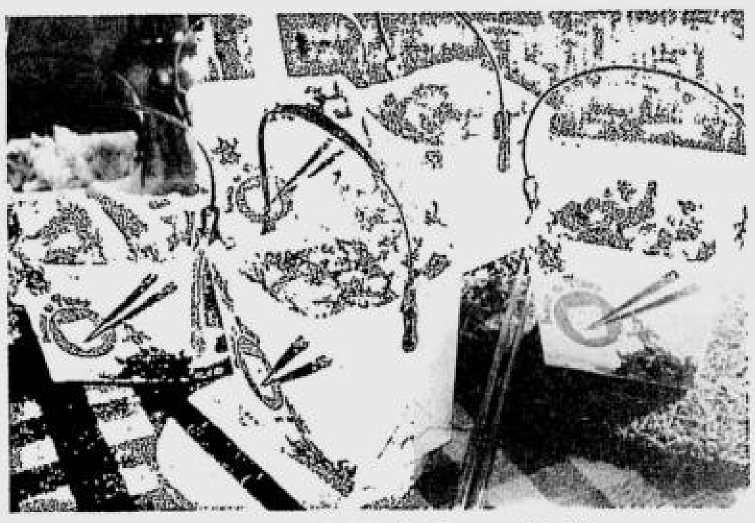


**KANI** tsume korokke, hand battered Alaskan crab claws coated with creamy mashed potatoes, is Kimpura's new offering.

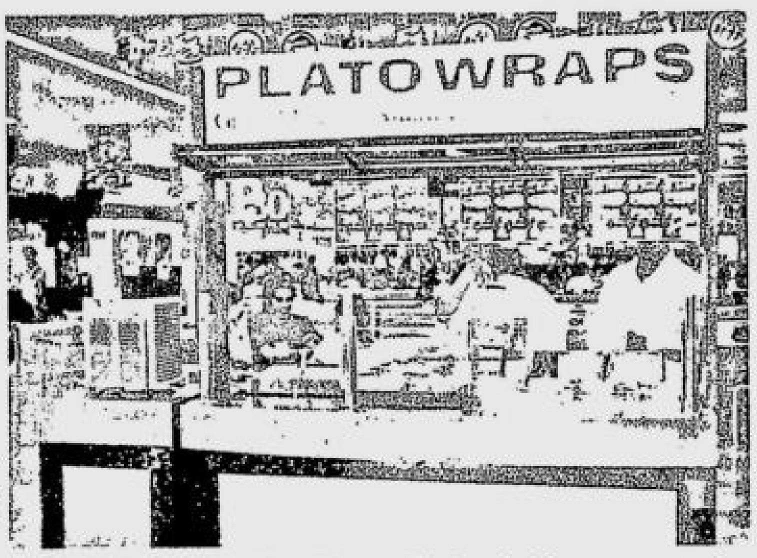


**PEKING** Garden offers Bonus Peking Duck Coupon its eighth anniversary.

**STORE** Super offers fish and chips served with malt vinegar and tartar sauce as part of its global cuisine selections. Store Super is located at the ground floor of Greenbelt 3, Makati.



**KANIN** ni Tisay takeout meals offer the flavors of Asia in one convenient and innovative package. These, as well as affordable franchise investment packages and a whole range of insights and tips geared toward responsible franchising, abound at the 2nd Filipino Franchise Show July 25-27 at Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall.



**TASTY** and affordable Plato Wraps grilled sandwiches are among the innovations that will be showcased at the 2nd Filipino Franchise Show, to be held on July 25-27, at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

# Latest issue of food and beverage bible now available

THE JULY-AUGUST issue of F&B World is now on sale.

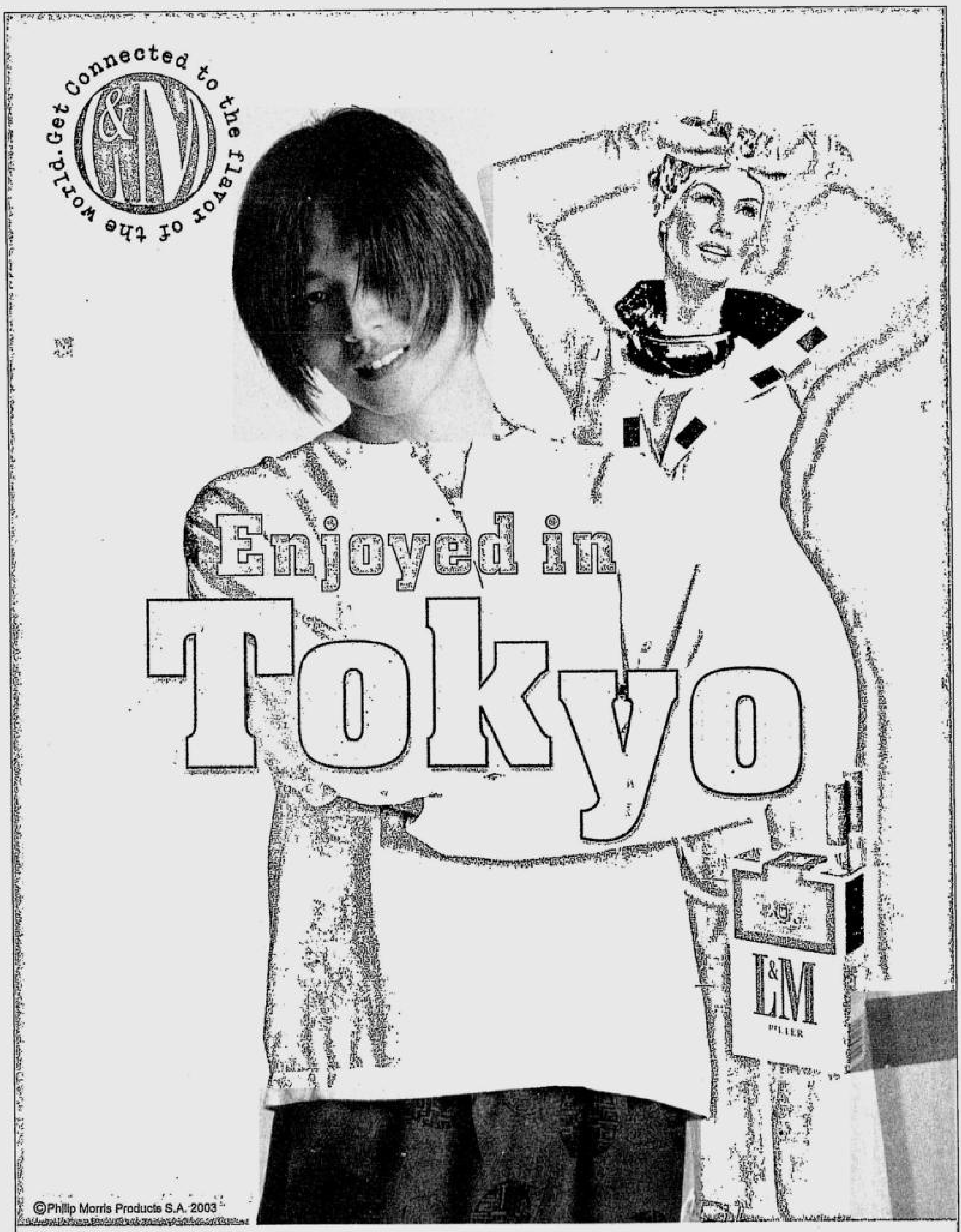
F&B World is the only true-blue trade magazine for the food and beverage industry. Its current issue features a study of the nation's top fast-food restaurants (or quick service restaurants), the use of celebrity endorsers and the advent of a new trend—fast casual dining.

F&B
The QSR Edition

The issue also takes a look at homegrown food outlets and the evolution of street selling, and discusses the liabilities of restaurant owners, how to be a safe food handler, and ways to maintain public restrooms.

Published by Angels Publishing House Inc., F&B World magazine is a bi-monthly trade publication dedicated to providing food service professionals with relevant news and pertinent information that they can use in their daily operations.

F&B World is distributed by Emerald Headway and is available in all National Book Store outlets, PowerBooks and select hotels and restaurants. Call 647-4744/66.



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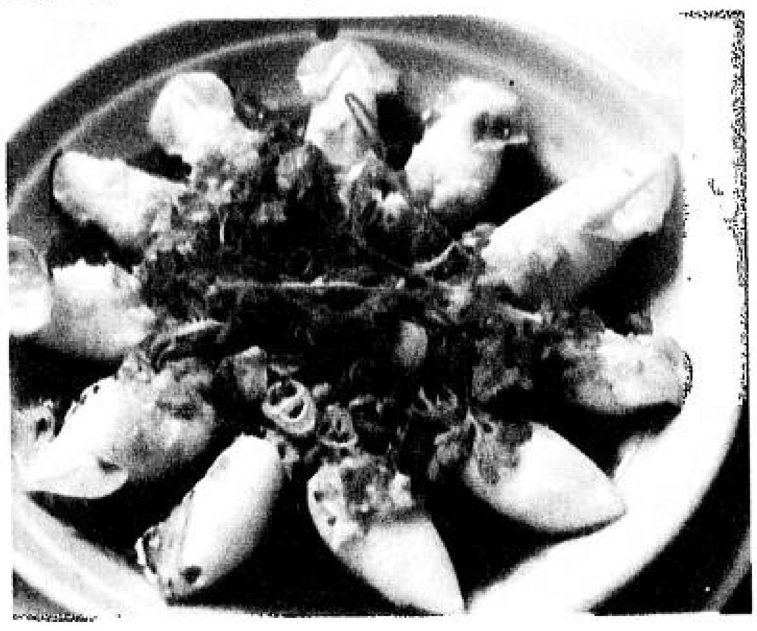
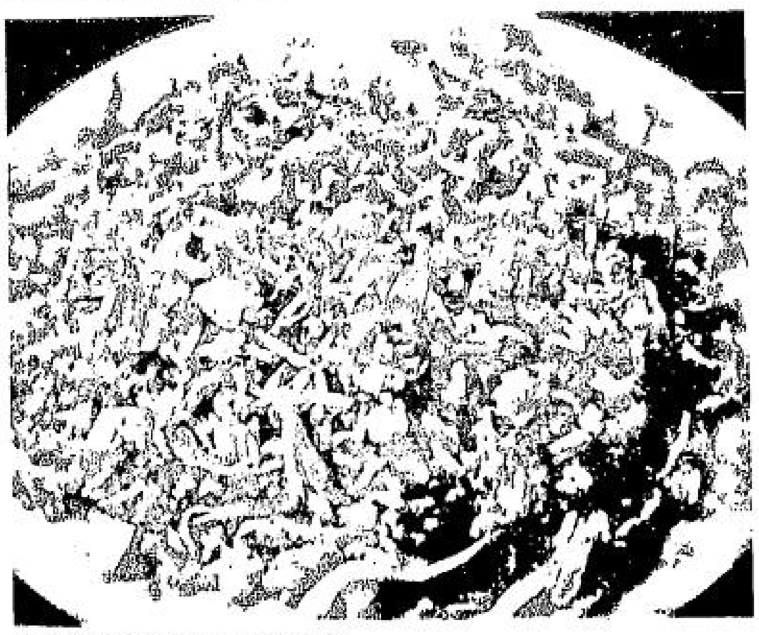
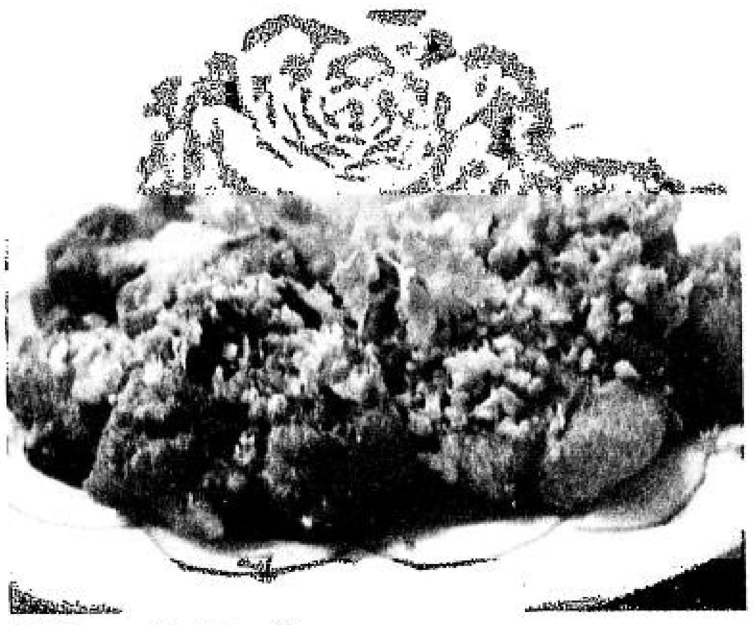
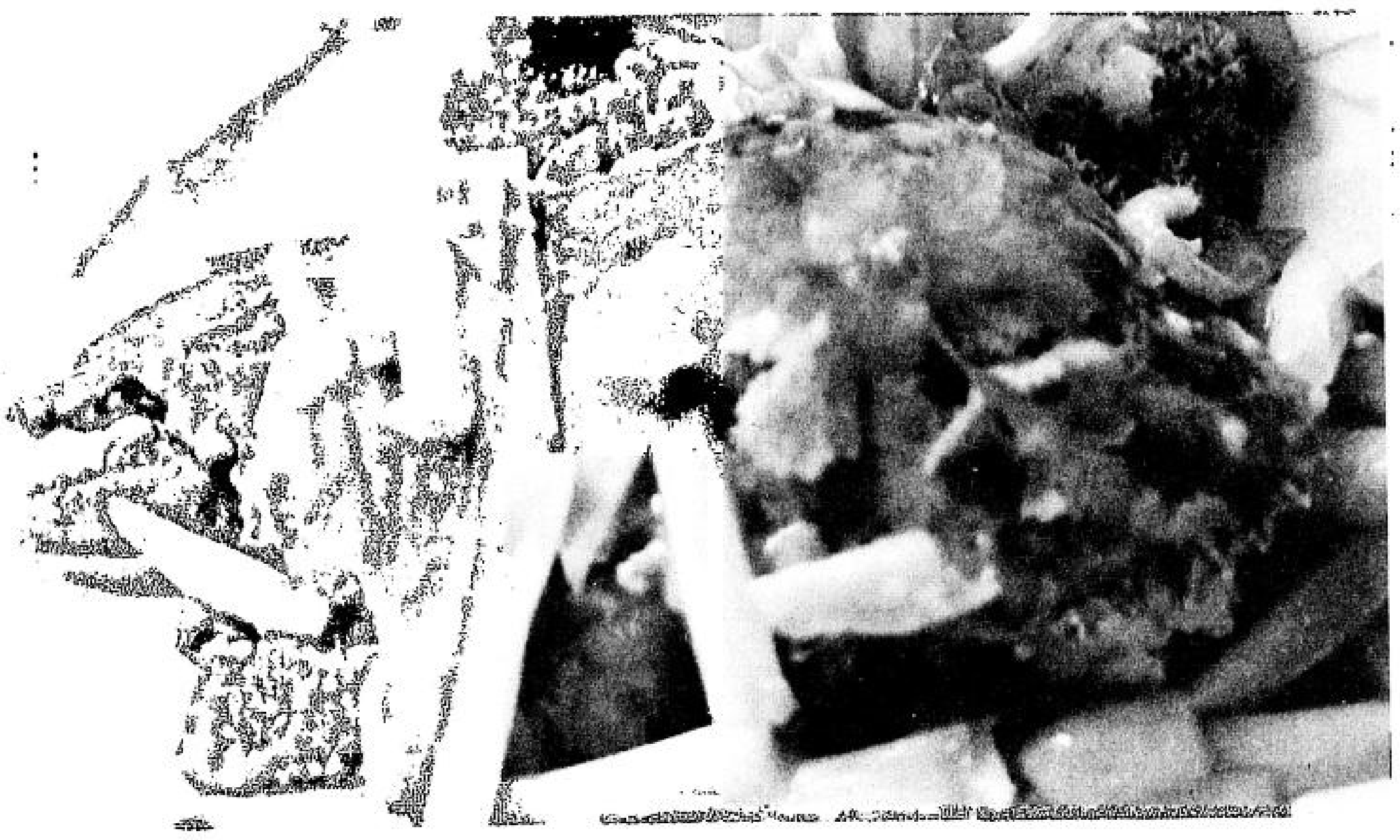

**STEAMED** baby squids with garlic


**ROBERT'S** special *bagoong* rice


**FRIED** spareribs with garlic

# The hybrid theory in dining pleasure


**CRAB** with onion and ginger

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Romy Homillada

The man behind Chowking has broken new ground with his Kingfisher and Goodview Seafood Restaurants and Hot! Café

WHEN Robert F. Kuan sold Chowking to Jollibee Food Corporation in late 1999, he created Kingfisher Seafood Restaurant, which serves fresh, high-quality, made-to-order Cantonese cuisine in a stylish setting with table service.

Aside from Kingfisher, he and his son Robert Kelvin formed two other restaurants, Hot! Café and Goodview Seafood Restaurant.

Located at R3 level, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati, Kingfisher (tels. 898-1427 and 898-1608) also serves Japanese dishes such as sushi, temaki and tempura.

Hot! Café at Power Plant and Roxas Boulevard offers Philippine regional specialties while Goodview Seafood restaurant at Romero Salas Street, Ermita, Manila, serves Cantonese cuisine and shabu-shabu.

Before the three restaurants were established in 2000, the Kuans visited different diners in the Philippines and other countries and came up with "hybrid dishes" like Steamed Bangus Belly with Tausi or Soy Sauce prepared tempura-style, and Robert's Special Bagoong Rice, which are both available at Kingfisher.

"All the items at Kingfisher are something out of the ordinary but are popular traditional Cantonese food such as roast duck, sweet and sour pork, and lemon chicken," says Robert Kelvin, chief operating officer of Creative Dining Inc., which operates Kingfisher, Hot! Café and Goodview.

Kingfisher has a chef consultant from Hong Kong, the world capital for Cantonese cooking.

"Cantonese people are very finicky when it comes to the freshness of their food. So at Kingfisher, even the amount of time taken for a live, swimming fish to be placed on a plate is kept to a minimum," Kuan says.

## Wide variety

Cantonese menus are long and can often confuse the diner in making a decision. At Kingfisher, there are a wide variety of dishes made from meats, poultry, fish, seafood and vegetables.

Chicken is a celebrity food. A single chicken can be used to prepare several dishes. Chicken blood is cooked and solidified for soup. Livers are skewered between pieces of pork fat and red-roasted until the fat becomes crispy, and the liver soft and succulent.

"Cantonese cooking is somewhat lighter than most regional Chinese cuisine. Preparation methods usually involve stir-frying in shallow water or oil in a wok. As cooking time is short, the flavors and nutrition of the food are preserved. Vegetable and fish dishes are often steamed without the use of too much oil. Sauces made from ingredients like ginger, garlic, onion, vinegar and sugar are complemented to enhance flavors," Kuan says.

Seafood is the next best delicacy at Kingfisher. Some of the popular dishes include freshly steamed fish with ginger and onion topped with a dash of soy sauce and sesame oil, prawns, shrimps and crabs cooked or steamed in black-bean sauce, and shark's fin soup.

Dim sum is, without a doubt, a trademark food in Cantonese cuisine. A delectable palate of little snacks, it is usually consumed in the mornings and afternoons. The dim sum items at Kingfisher include pork, shrimp, bacon and Japanese.

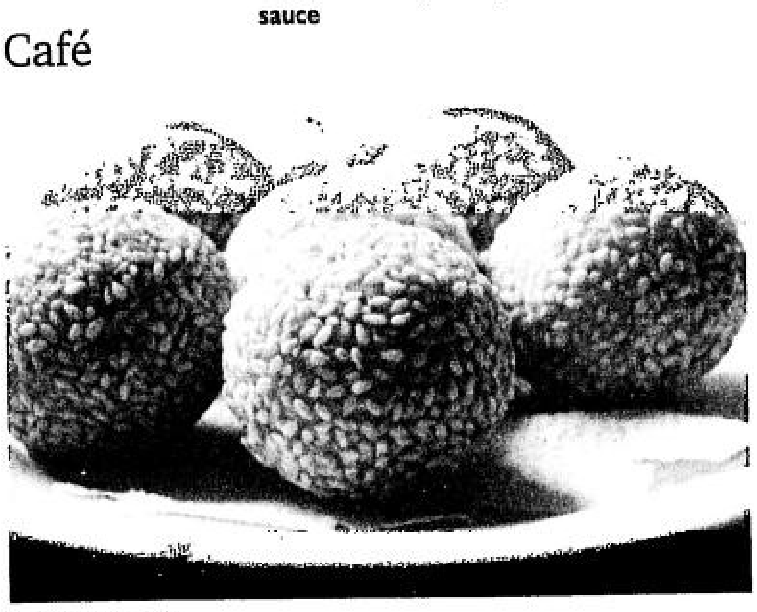
The 240-seater restaurant also offers a buffet of roast duck, dim sum, sushi and a la carte dishes for P295 on Monday to Friday, lunch and dinner.

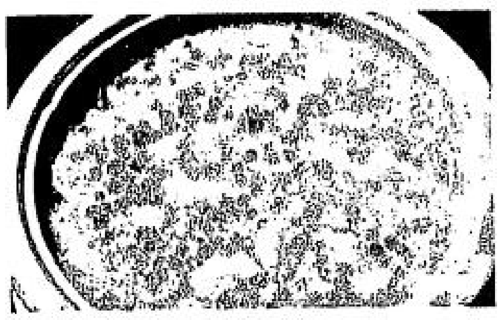
How quickly an item can be made to order often determines whether or not it stays on the menu of Kingfisher. "It's amazing how people come in and eat the same things three times a week," Kuan says. But new items keep the menu fresh and looking good.

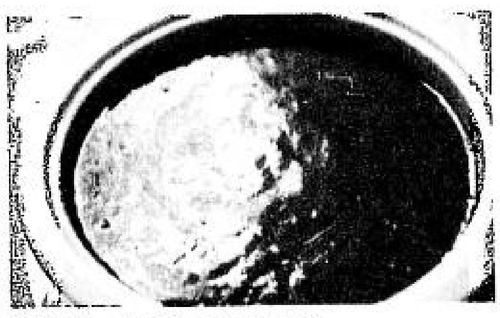
"If we feel there is a dish we just aren't executing to our standards, we take it off and offer something else. We are in the business of creating cravings. You have to create cravings," says Kuan.

*E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph*

**STEAMED** *bangus* belly with tausi or soy sauce

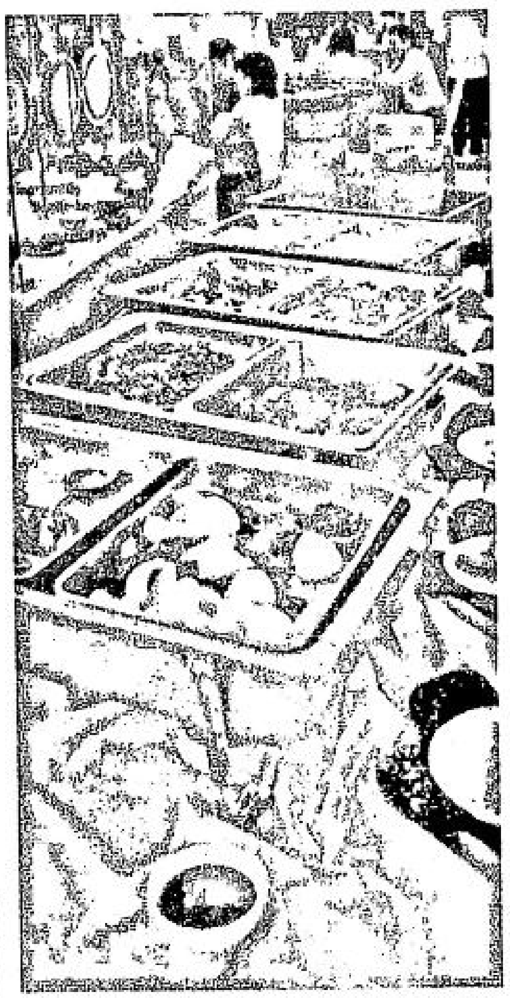

**SPECIAL** buchi


**CHILLED** mango purée with *sago*


**GREEN** spinach seafood soup

**MYRNA** David did the interiors of Kingfisher in Rockwell.

**ROBERT** Kelvin Kuan, CEO of Creative Dining Inc.


**KINGFISHER'S** buffet offers roast duck, dim sum, sushi, desserts and some a la carte dishes.

# Pasta basics updated

**By Dorothy MJ Ferreria**
*Contributor*

PASTA used to be confined to the basic spaghetti with meatballs, baked lasagna or a macaroni salad. Now we have a whole shelf in the supermarket filled from end to end with all shapes and sizes of imported and locally produced pasta, from the standard spaghetti to the fancier farfalle, angel hair pasta, tricolor pasta, penne rigate, etc.

Also, we have all types of olive oil, from the extra virgin variety to light olive oil, and some are even flavored with garlic and herbs. To complete the picture, we have prepared sauces in bottles, cans or foil packs for convenience. Only imagination is needed to put these together to come up with a hearty pasta recipe.

Here we have pasta recipes that are easy to prepare for your family's enjoyment. We have combined Spanish salpicado with pasta instead of the usual garlic rice, the classic Fettuccine Alfredo is made interesting with bacon bits, and Macaroni and Cheese now comes with a twist. We want our pasta every way, and with the availability of ingredients, we can even have it everyday. Happy cooking!

## Pasta with Beef Salpicado

250 g (¼ kg) beef sirloin sliced into strips

Marinade:
1 tsp minced garlic
½ tsp rock salt
black pepper to taste
1 ½ tsp calamansi juice
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp soy sauce
¼ tsp dried oregano
1 tbsp olive oil
250 g fettuccine noodles cooked according to package directions
¼ c olive oil
2 tbsp minced garlic
½ c coarsely chopped onions
1 ½ c sliced canned button mushrooms
2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
1 tbsp liquid seasoning (e.g. Maggi Savor)
2 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp fine salt
black pepper to taste
½ c chopped spring onions
¼ c bottled fried garlic

Combine the ingredients for the marinade in a bowl. Add the beef strips and let stand for at least 15 minutes.

Heat the olive oil in a large frying pan. Sauté the garlic, the onions and the mushrooms until the onions are limp. Add the marinated beef strips and continue to sauté until the beef changes color. Working quickly, add the Worcestershire sauce, seasoning sauce, olive oil, salt, pepper and cooked noodles. Toss gently to mix. Add half of the spring onions and the fried garlic. Turn off the heat and continue to mix until blended. Transfer to a serving platter and garnish with the remaining spring onions and fried garlic.

## Fettuccine Alfredo with Bacon Bits

250 g fettuccine noodles cooked according to package directions
2 ¾ c fresh milk
½ c chopped onions
2 pcs bay leaf (laurel)
2 tsp whole black peppercorns
2 tbsp butter
2 tbsp all-purpose flour
¼ tsp ground nutmeg
1 c grated quickmelt cheese
400 g bacon, cooked according to package directions and crumbled
2/3 c chopped spring onions
2 tsp fine salt
½ tsp finely ground black pepper

In a large saucepan, combine the following ingredients: milk, onions, bay leaf and peppercorns. Place over medium heat and allow to boil. Immediately turn off the heat, cover and let stand for 10 minutes.

Melt the butter in a large frying pan. Add the flour and the nutmeg and stir until blended. Strain the milk mixture and add to the pan. Reduce the heat to low and continue to cook until slightly thick. Stir in the cheese, the bacon, the spring onions, the salt and the pepper. Allow to boil and then add the cooked noodles. Mix well and serve immediately.

## All-American Macaroni and Cheese with Ham

¼ c butter
1 tbsp well-pounded garlic
½ c chopped onions
250 g pack sweet ham, chopped
½ pc chicken broth cube
¼ c sifted all-purpose flour
2 ½ c fresh milk
250-g bottle of cheese spread
300 g raw elbow macaroni noodles cooked according to package directions
parsley to garnish

Melt the butter over medium heat in a large wok. Add the garlic and the onions and sauté until the onions are soft. Do not allow the garlic to brown or the sauce will get bitter. Add the chopped ham and the chicken cube. Continue to sauté until glossy. Add the flour and mix well. Then pour in the milk and continue to cook, stirring continuously, until the sauce has thickened. Stir in the cheese spread and allow to boil briefly.

Combine the cheese sauce and the noodles in a bowl. Transfer to a baking dish and garnish with chopped parsley. Serve immediately.

*Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City. Call 721-7735.*

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# Cooking class features paellas

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts has released its schedule of cooking classes for the last week of July and the first week of August.

July 25: Paella Filipina—Taba ng Talangka Paella with mixed seafood and vegetables, Paksiw na Lechon Paella with stewed banana blossoms and *lakatan* relish, Bistek Tagalog Paella with caramelized shallots and lemon soy dressing, Capsicum Afritada with saffron Paella, Arroz a la Cubana Paella with taro and banana chips

July 28: Fondues—Two kinds of cheese; Meat, chicken and seafood with six savory dipping sauces; Dessert fondue with black and white chocolate truffle sauces

July 30 (Morning class): All-new gourmet cooking—Spinach and Cheese Souffle, Classic Caesar Salad, Seafood Chowder, Salisbury Steaks with mushroom gravy and roasted garlic mashed potatoes; Prawn Pot Pie, Vanilla Bread and Butter Pudding;

(Afternoon class): Soup, Salad and Sandwich Combinations—Seafood Tacos with *chorizo* seafood soup, Ham and Apple sandwich with broccoli soup, Clam Chowder with roast chicken salad sandwich, Grilled Mixed Cheese sandwiches with fruit, Montecristo sandwich with old-fashioned green salad with egg mustard dressing

Aug. 1: Wellington (highly recommended)—Classic Beef Wellington with three sauces (bernaise, mushroom and madiera), French Seafood Wellington, Pork Wellington with apple sauce and caramelized squash, Lamb Wellington, Chicken and Spinach Wellington

Aug. 4: Lutong Bahay (Gourmet Filipino, highly recommended)—Tomato Sinigang with mixed meat and vegetables, Ube Chicken Rice, Afritada with roasted bell peppers, Eggplant and Chicken Tinola, Lamb Tortang Talong with honey catsup, Binagoongang Baboy with garlic chips, Pandan Gulaman, dipping sauces.

Aug. 6 (Morning class): Chocolate Romance—Old-fashioned Mud Pie, Truffle Cake, Black and White Cheesecake, Turtle Cake, Fudgy Peanut Butter Cake, delicious Turtle Pie;

(Afternoon class): Carribean Cuisine 101—Bouillabaisse Carribean style, Rabo Encendido (ox-tail and tongue stew), authentic Arroz a la Cubana, Guava Ribs, Barbacoa de Cordero with Carribean Paella, Bacalao stew Carribean style, Fried leche flan with rum

Aug 8: Reggie's Ultimate Roast Collection—Beef Roast with bone marrow (*bulalo*) sauce served with cappuccino oyster Rockefeller soup, Roast Chicken with maple ginger glaze with *chorizo* and homemade corn bread stuffing, Honey Roasted Lamb served with curried vegetable couscous, fruit chutney, cilantro, yogurt and arugula salad, Roast Duck with chestnut stuffing and delicious plum sauce served with crispy duck confit and blue cheese salad, Maple Turkey with mustard gravy served with apple risotto. Special class, P2500 + ingredients

Monday and Friday classes start at 9 a.m.; Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-12 nn (morning class) and 1:30-4:30 p.m. (afternoon class)

For reservations and a complete class schedule call 928-9296, 927-3008, 633-5162 (look for Cynthia).

The Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts is at 3/F Bon Appetit, Shangri-La Edsa, Mandaluyong.

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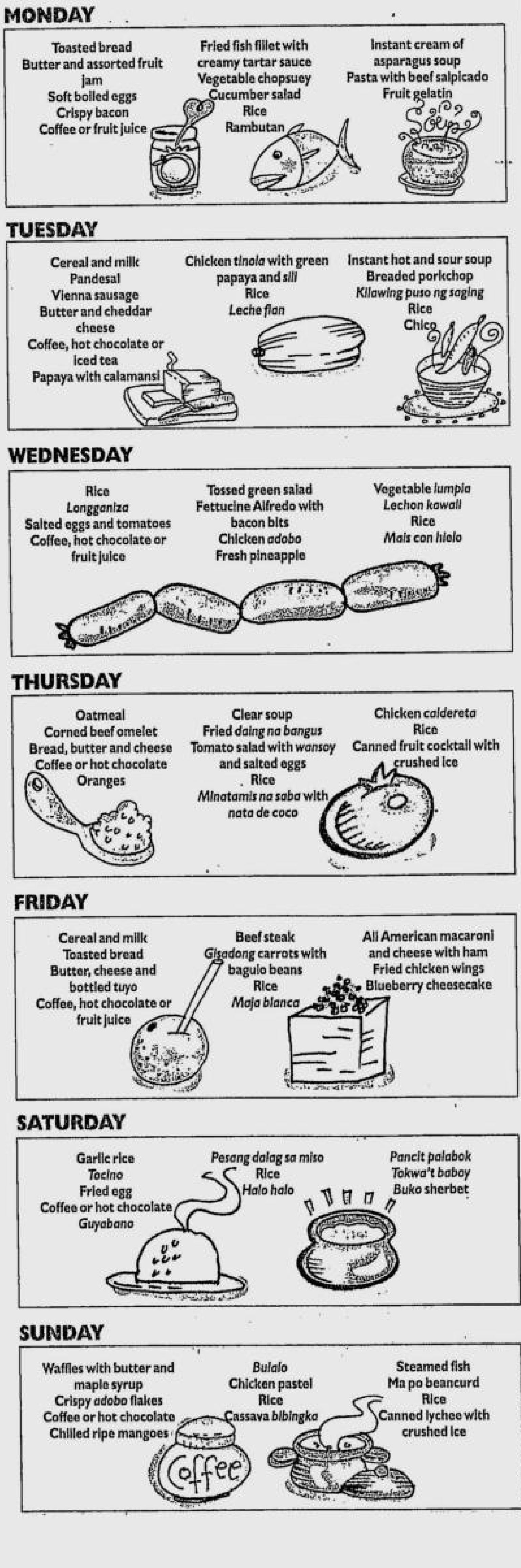

| | Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner |
|---|---|---|---|
| **MONDAY** | Toasted bread<br>Butter and assorted fruit jam<br>Soft boiled eggs<br>Crispy bacon<br>Coffee or fruit juice | Fried fish fillet with creamy tartar sauce<br>Vegetable chopsuey<br>Cucumber salad<br>Rice<br>Rambutan | Instant cream of asparagus soup<br>Pasta with beef salpicado<br>Fruit gelatin |
| **TUESDAY** | Cereal and milk<br>Pandesal<br>Vienna sausage<br>Butter and cheddar cheese<br>Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea<br>Papaya with calamansi | Chicken *tinola* with green papaya and *sili*<br>Rice<br>*Leche flan* | Instant hot and sour soup<br>Breaded porkchop<br>*Kilawing puso ng saging*<br>Rice<br>Chico |
| **WEDNESDAY** | Rice<br>*Longganiza*<br>Salted eggs and tomatoes<br>Coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice | Tossed green salad<br>Fettucine Alfredo with bacon bits<br>Chicken *adobo*<br>Fresh pineapple | Vegetable *lumpia*<br>*Lechon kawali*<br>Rice<br>*Mais con hielo* |
| **THURSDAY** | Oatmeal<br>Corned beef omelet<br>Bread, butter and cheese<br>Coffee or hot chocolate<br>Oranges | Clear soup<br>Fried *daing na bangus*<br>Tomato salad with *wansoy* and salted eggs<br>Rice<br>*Minatamis na saba* with *nata de coco* | Chicken *caldereta*<br>Rice<br>Canned fruit cocktail with crushed ice |
| **FRIDAY** | Cereal and milk<br>Toasted bread<br>Butter, cheese and bottled *tuyo*<br>Coffee, hot chocolate or fruit juice | Beef steak<br>*Gisadong* carrots with baguio beans<br>Rice<br>*Maja blanca* | All American macaroni and cheese with ham<br>Fried chicken wings<br>Blueberry cheesecake |
| **SATURDAY** | Garlic rice<br>*Tocino*<br>Fried egg<br>Coffee or hot chocolate<br>*Guyabano* | *Pesang dalag sa miso*<br>Rice<br>*Halo halo* | *Pancit palabok*<br>*Tokwa't baboy*<br>*Buko* sherbet |
| **SUNDAY** | Waffles with butter and maple syrup<br>Crispy *adobo* flakes<br>Coffee or hot chocolate<br>Chilled ripe mangoes | *Bulalo*<br>Chicken pastel<br>Rice<br>Cassava *bibingka* | Steamed fish<br>Ma po beancurd<br>Rice<br>Canned lychee with crushed ice |

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

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Creative Cooking
2003 Culinary Series
August Calendar

*This August we are happy to do a repeat of Don Alba's classes in two batches.*

SPANISH

**DonAlba** of Alba Restaurante Espanol, no less, shares his culinary passion and secrets to making the best paella, lengua, gambas and more.

*Recipes:* Ensalada Mediterranea, Paella Valenciana, Sopa de Mariscos, Ensalada Valenciana, Entremeses Variados, Paella Negra, Gambas Al Ajillo, Salpicado de Solomillo and Lengua Sevillana.

*First Batch* August 5 & 12, 2003, 2-5 p.m., P2,900 (for 2 days)

*Second Batch* August 19 & 26, 2003, 2-5 p.m. P2900 (for 2 days)

Method: Demonstration

CAKES AND PASTRIES

Learn how to bake these classic recipes from **Gina Y. Navarro** and discover that cake baking is not as intimidating.

*Recipes:* Vanilla Chiffon Roll, Classic Butter Cake, Mexican Cheesecake, Best Ever Brownies, Mango Walnut Pie, Flourless Chocolate Cake, French Apple Tart and Almond Sans Rival.

August 13 & 20, 2003, 1-5:30 p.m., P2900 (for 2 days)

Method: Combined demonstration and hands-on

*Fee inclusive of ingredients. Reservation confirmed only upon full payment.*

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54 Scout Tobias, Quezon City
Tel. Nos., 371-7938, 372-2965
e-mail: ginavnav@surfshop.net.ph

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caramel cakes

stephB.
Kiss The Cook

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

# Lucky wife is going to get pleasant surprise from husband

**MY WIFE will soon celebrate her birthday, and I want to personally prepare a dinner for her. May I ask for a recipe for Yang Chow fried rice, steamed fish with the sauce, and sweet and sour pork?**

**TJ**

KITCHEN RESCUE

*Reggie Aspiras*

Romeo, Romeo, where art thou, Romeo?

You are a sweet little creature! But before I grant your request, you must first answer the following questions:

- What planet are you from?
- Do you have brothers? If so, how old are they? (Please send pictures and ITR via e-mail)
- How long have you been married?
- Where do we find men like you?

Well TJ, there's no way I could say no to a request like this. Hope your wife appreciates you, and please, don't go changin'! *Baka naman sa umpisa lang yan!*

### Sweet and Sour Pork

For the pork:

½ kg pork fillet, cut into 1 inch cubes, pounded with a meat tenderizer ¼"
1 tbsp Shao Sing, Chinese rice wine or sherry
1 tbsp light soy sauce
cornstarch for dredging

In a bowl, combine pork pieces with wine or sherry and soy sauce. Combine ingredients for at least 5 minutes, to incorporate flavors. (I do this step with my hands, preferably newly washed!) Dredge pork pieces in cornstarch and deep fry in very hot oil, 375°. Do this in batches to maintain oil temperature. Fry until golden brown and crispy. Often, I do a double fry to ensure crispness. Drain in paper towels.

For the sauce:

1 tsp garlic, chopped
¼ c Chinese rice vinegar
½ c water
salt and pepper
1 tbsp light soy sauce
1/3 c sugar to taste
chili powder, optional
1 tbsp cornstarch dissolved in 1 tbsp water

Combine ingredients in a bowl, except the cornstarch water. Set sauce aside. Remember to taste the sauce and adjust the vinegar and sugar according to your preference. By the way, a lot of sweet and sour pork dishes you find are red in color, that's because they add either ketchup, tomato sauce or tomato paste. The choice is yours. Add a tablespoon or two to the sauce, if you wish.

1 tbsp oil
1 small carrot, sliced
1 lg green pepper, seeded and sliced
1/3 c canned pineapple chunks, drained

In a wok, heat oil and do a quick sauté of the vegetables; add the pineapple, then the sauce, and thicken with cornstarch water. Pour over fried pork cubes just before serving.

### Steamed Fish, My Version

1 whole fresh fish, *lapu-lapu* preferably live, about 1 ½-2 kg, scaled, cleaned, washed and scored

On a plate, lay a couple of slices of ginger and whole green onions. Lay the fish on the plate and lay a couple more slices of ginger and whole onions and dribble with Shao Sing Wine and about a tablespoon of sesame oil.

Lay the plate out on a steamer. Make sure the steamer is at least ¾ filled with water and that the water in the steamer has been boiling for no less than 7 minutes. Steam fish for about 15-20 minutes or until the eyes pop out.

Sauce:

1 tbsp vegetable oil
2 tsp peanut oil
2 tsp sesame oil
2 slices ginger root, cut ¼" thick, then sliced into thin match sticks
½ c of fresh shiitake mushrooms
2 c of leek, sliced thinly (1 c each white and green part)
2 tbsp light soy sauce
2 tbsp rice wine
½ tsp white pepper
1 tbsp sugar or to taste
1 bunch of coriander sprigs

In a wok, heat up oils, add ginger, mushrooms and leeks. Add the rest of the ingredients except the coriander and bring to a boil. Turn off heat immediately to avoid overcooking the leeks. Season to taste. Pour sauce on top of steamed fish and garnish with coriander sprigs.

### Yang Chow Fried Rice

2 tbsp vegetable oil
¼ c spring onions, chopped
2 eggs, slightly beaten
¼ c green peas, uncooked
½ c cooked shrimp, diced
3 c cold cooked day-old rice
¼ c pork *asado*/barbecued Chinese pork
1 tbsp light soy sauce to taste
1 tbsp dark soy sauce
white pepper
1 tsp sugar

Heat up oil in a wok. Add spring onions and eggs, cook until the eggs completely dry out. Scramble them while cooking. Add peas, shrimps, pork and rice. Add seasoning and adjust accordingly.

Fried rice tips:

- Good fried rice is done by adding ingredients one at a time, allowing each one to infuse its flavor into the dish.
- The longer the rice is fried, the better the flavor becomes. Continue mixing it though. Good fried rice should pop on the wok when ready. MSG is not necessary when rice is fried this way.

### Spike's here

By the way, I stand corrected on the availability of spike seasoning. I received a couple of letters and texts saying that it has been available in Manila for some time now. Sorry, never used it before so I didn't go searching for it. Spike seasoning is available in Healthy Options and in Rustan's Rockwell. Thanks, Jan, for the info.

### Looking for Jamaican rum

**Years ago, a friend of mine told me that (she used) Jamaican rum for her Butter Cake but she did not tell me where to buy the rum. I tried to look for it, thinking that I could easily find it in wine/liquor stores, but to no avail. I hope you can tell me where to buy Jamaican Rum.**

LOLITA NAZARIO

I've seen Jamaican rum in Ralph's before, but I don't know if they still have it. The Vineyard in Rustan's used to have it, too. But my question is, why use Jamaican rum when Tanduay is excellent? I use Tanduay for all my recipes that require rum. Whenever I can, I always proudly use and buy Pinoy! *Mabuhay!*

For those asking about my classes, the schedules are on another page of the Lifestyle section.

*For questions, comments and suggestions, e-mail the author at reggie1@skyinet.net*

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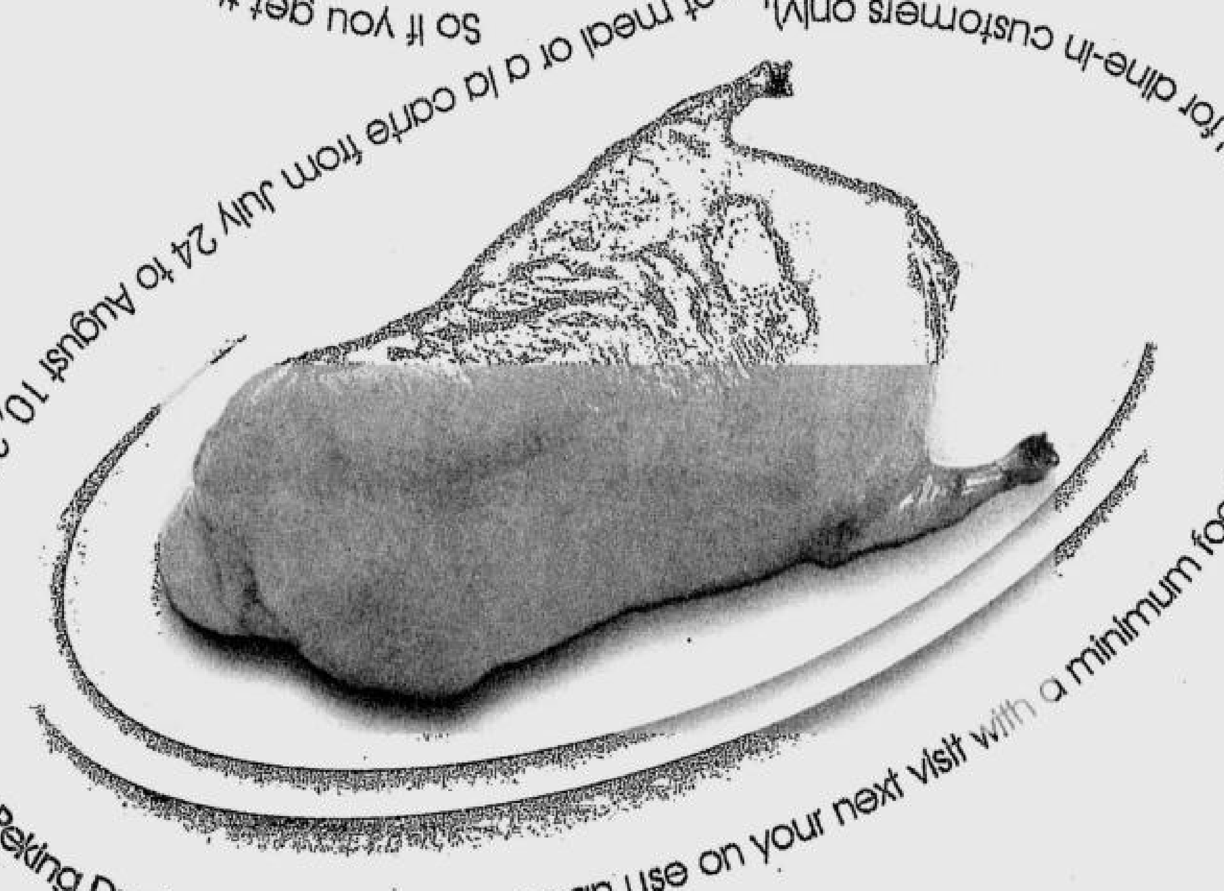

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-414 Series of 2003